WORDS WE MISSPELL

by

FRANK H. VIZETELLY

Author of

"A Desk Book of 25,000 Words Frequently Mispronounced", "A Desk Book of Errors in English", etc.

To-day good spelling is an indispensable accomplishment, and to spell badly is vulgar. It stamps its victim as ignorant and closes to him the doors of advancement or lucrative appointments. You would be surprised to know what a large percentage of the failures in Civil Service examinations is due to mistakes in spelling!

Why be handicapped all your life when you can have this valuable book on your desk or table for ready reference?

WORDS WE MISSPELL

by

FRANK H. VIZETELLY

Author of "A Desk Book of 25,000 Words Frequently Mispronounced" and "A Desk Book of Errors in English", etc.

There are approximately 450 words ending in *ance* and *ence,* and 650 that end in—*ant* and—*ent!* How many times have you been baffled to know whether to use the *a* or the *e*?

Many a man or woman who can "get by" in ordinary daily word-of-mouth communication is unmasked in his or her simplest business or social correspondence by glaring evidences of misspelling. It is no longer necessary to risk losing the respect of one's educated fellows or to receive the stamp of ignorance and the seal of vulgarity just because we do not know the simple rules for guidance in spelling or the governing principles of our mother tongue which this book provides.

It is not merely a primer of spelling, but rather a guide to the words too frequently misspelled in business and social letters. It contains 10,000 terms, showing their correct forms and divisions as used in printing and writing; rules governing the orthography of English words and the formation of plurals, and tests for spelling.

There are few of us who have not at some time in our lives been perplexed about the spelling of some word. This book, if available in the office and the home, will save many an embarrassed moment and feeling of chagrin.

GROSSET & DUNLAP *Publishers* **New York**

This book is *complete* and *unabridged!* From first page to last it is exactly as the author wrote it and as originally published at the higher price. The low price is made possible by printing from the original plates and by the acceptance of a reduced royalty.

Words We Misspell

Ten Thousand Terms, Showing Their Correct Forms and Divisions as Used in Printing and Writing, with Rules Governing the Orthography of English Words

By

FRANK H. VIZETELLY, Litt.D., LL.D.

Managing Editor of the "Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary" and Its Abridgments; Author of "Essentials of English Speech and Literature," "A Desk-Book of Errors in English," Etc.

GROSSET & DUNLAP, *Publishers*
NEW YORK

By arrangement with Funk & Wagnalls Company

[1921]

Copyright, 1921, by
FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY
[Printed in the United States of America]

Copyright Under the Articles of the Copyright Convention
of the Pan-American Republics and the
United States, August 11, 1910

TO

W. V. K.

PATIENT AND GENIAL COMPANION

OF MANY

STRENUOUS YEARS

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

WITH APPRECIATION,

GRATITUDE, AND LOVE

F. H. V.

INTRODUCTION

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE once said that there is "one branch of learning without which learning itself can not be railed at with common decency, namely, spelling." If our spelling followed the pronunciation of words, it would in reality be a greater help to the student of language than the present uncertain and unscientific mode of writing. In explaining the whimsical, antiquated English orthography, the eminent etymologist Prof. WALTER SKEAT said that "we still retain much of the Elizabethan spelling, which at that period was retrospective, with a Victorian pronunciation." As a matter of fact, our present spelling violates both history and etymology. BULWER-LYTTON told us that it was impossible to find "a more lying, roundabout, puzzle-headed delusion concocted by the father of falsehood than that with which we confuse the clear instincts of truth as our accursed system of spelling." He wondered how it was possible for any system of education to flourish which begins with a falsehood so monstrous that our very sense of hearing flatly contradicts it.

According to an American critic—it may have been MARK TWAIN or, perhaps, ARTEMUS WARD—CHAUCER was a very fair poet, but the worst "speler" he had ever come across. Measured by the standard of our day Chaucer's spelling was original, probably because in his time there were no standards by which it could be regulated. Now, Chaucer is dead, but we have three standards of spelling to guide us—the American standard, the British standard, and the Simplified Spelling Board's standard.

Forty years ago an eminent scholar, Professor CHILD of Harvard, declared that "one of the most useful things just now is to break down the respect which a great foolish public has for established spelling." Things have changed since then, and if there are some of us who still "do not much care how anybody spells, so he spell different from what is established," as Professor Child expressed it, they are in the minority.

To-day good spelling is an indispensable accomplishment, and to spell badly is vulgar. It stamps its victim as ignorant and closes to him the doors of lucrative ap-

pointments. Correct spelling is an open sesame to public office and its emoluments, but a large percentage of the failures in Civil Service examinations is due to mistakes in spelling.

English is full of pitfalls for all, be they wise, near-wise, over-wise, or otherwise, and there are few persons who have not at some time in their lives been perplexed about the spelling of some word in their mother tongue. This is due in a large measure to the maze of symbols through which every one who studies English has to thread his way. The student of to-day, like Theseus of old, needs an Ariadne to guide him through the labyrinth. Therefore, it is not extraordinary that a man with a little Latin should be confused over words ending in *-ance* and *-ence* or *-ant* and *-ent* while the man who has none is not puzzled.

Who shall tell the former why he must write *precede, recede, secede,* and *proceed, exceed, succeed?* He may know why he should use *e* in "indolence" (*in*+*doleo*), "obedience" (*obēdien*[*t*-]*s*, ppr. of *obēdio*), "science" (*scien*[*t*-]*s*, ppr. of *scio*), but may be perplexed over the use of *a* in "admittance" (*ad*+*mitto*), "appearance" (*ad*+*pareo*), "sufferance" (*sub*+*fero*). In like manner, it may be perfectly clear to him that *e* is the correct letter to use in "permanent" (*per*+*maneo*), "indolent" (*in*+*doleo*), "reticent" (*reticeo*), but why he should use *a* in "attendant" (*attendo*), "defendant" (*defendo*), "tenant" (*teneo*) is not quite so clear. And there are approximately 450 words ending in *-ance* and *-ence*, and 650 that end in *-ant* and *-ent!* The correct use of the suffixes *-able* and *-ible* and *-er* and *-or* adds largely to the problems that have to be solved for there are at least 800 of the first group and as many more of the second.

Because English is preeminently the language of international communication, of civilization, of commerce, of religious freedom, of social development, and of progressive learning, it is necessary for all who make use of it to know how to speak it and how to write it correctly. They should learn to pronounce every sound clearly and accurately if they expect those to whom they speak to understand them. English, which was originally one of the easiest languages to learn, has in the course of years become one of the hardest, because the English spoken by one generation has differed from that spoken by another, and because the English written by one generation

differs from that written by another. Our mother tongue is subject to constant change, but that change does not affect many words at a time. It is only as the years roll on and we look back that we notice it.

Ninety years ago, it was the practise in England to place the stress in the words *illustrate* and *escapade* on the second syllable. Now they are stressed upon the first. Sixty years ago, initial "h" was not heard in pronouncing *herb, hospital,* and *humor,* but to-day no one who wishes to pass as educated would neglect to aspirate it. In our own time, however, we do not aspirate the "h" in *heir, honest, honor,* and *hour.* In the fashionable *patois* of London, or what is commonly spoken of as the West End, final "g" is clipped, so that it is quite common to hear, "*Askin* a *shillin* for *somethin,*" and the affectation of ignoring the "h" in such words as *what, when, which,* and *whither* is quite common. There, too, the stress that we place on the second syllable was put upon the first in such words as *fanat'ic,* formerly *fan'atic; remon'strate,* formerly *rem'onstrate; sono'rous,* formerly *son'orous,* etc., but then that was one hundred and fifty years ago when it was the fashion to speak of *agen* for "again"; *Chiny* for "China"; *drayma* for "drama"; *ornary* for "ordinary"; *faybrick* for "fabric"; *goold* for "gold"; *laylock* for "lilac"; *Lunnon* for "London"; *oblike* for "oblique"; *pronunsheation* for "pronunciation," and *sudjest* for "suggest." To attempt to disturb a language by introducing idiosyncrasies, or such patois as that given above, is not merely harmful; it is ridiculous and subversive of all that is essential to the preservation of purity in speech.

English is not a phonetic language notwithstanding the fact that a great number of words, such as *bark, but, go, gun, lo, no, not,* etc., are spelled phonetically. Generally it violates all phonetic rules, and it has been calculated that because of this a child of average intelligence studying English must devote two years of its school-time exclusively to learning to spell correctly.

The confusion that exists in English may be attributed to the fact that the alphabet is inadequate to indicate the sounds of speech — that twenty-six letters are used to represent 117 sounds. This is due to the presence of many Anglo-Saxon words, and to the introduction of a large number of words from the Norman French, for the letters did not always represent the same sounds

in Norman French as in Anglo-Saxon, and the letters in Anglo-Saxon did not always represent the same sounds as in Norman French. In "The Making of English," Dr. HENRY BRADLEY points out that "many of the extant early Middle English manuscripts were written by persons who had never learned to spell their native language, but who rendered the words phonetically according to the French values of the letters." Ultimately the Norman French prevailed.

The revival of Latin and Greek learning which occurred after 1450 introduced a great many words from these languages which were spelled phonetically in the Old Latin way, and so arose the practise of spelling many English words as if they were Latin. Then came the printers who strove to bring order out of chaos, and after 1600 they adopted a system of spelling which established certain forms but left others to future generations. Since 1600 the pronunciation of English has changed very much, so that to-day the spelled form of the word differs widely from that of the spoken word. These are the reasons why we find that the letters of the English alphabet have so many different phonetic values.

A student of the English language can safely be taught to analyze a word into its sounds and to find the letters representing them with an alphabet that is strictly phonetic, but it is insulting to human intelligence to assure him that a sound in English is indicated exclusively by some particular letter.

Before any one can spell correctly in English, it is necessary for him to have a clear knowledge of the phonetic values of the letters and the combinations of letters that are used in the writing of English words. Any one who chooses to analyze the phonetic values of our alphabet can learn easily that the letter "a" is used for 9 different sounds; the letter "e" for 8; the letter "i" for 7; the letter "o" for 12; the letter "u" for 9, and the letter "y" for 3, so that 6 English vowels are used to indicate 47 separate and distinct phonetic sounds. But the vowels are not alone in this respect; some of the consonants are in the same class. "B" is used to indicate 2 sounds, including the silent uses; "c" for 6; "d" for 4; "f" for 3; "g" for 4; "h" for 3; "j" for 5; "k" for 2; "l," "m," and "n" 3 each; "p" for 2; "q" for 3; "r" for 2; "s" and "t" for 5; "v" and "w" for 2 each; "x" for 5; "y" for 2, and

"z" for 4. Thus, 21 of our consonants are used to indicate 70 different phonetic sounds. For this reason, it is extremely difficult to determine the correct pronunciation from the spelling of any English word, but it is much more difficult to ascertain the correct letters that should be used in spelling a word from analogy. Take *a*, for example. It represents a different sound in each of the following words—*fat, father, fate, any, wan, war.* So it is also with other letters.

The late Dr. ALEXANDER J. ELLIS pointed out that "e" in *mete* has not less than 40 equivalents in the language; that "a" in *mate* has 34; that "a" in *father* has 2; that "a" in *fall* has 21; that "e" in *met* has 36, and further declared that the word *scissors* could be spelled 58,365,440 different ways, and each could be justified by analogy. The word is composed of 6 elementary sounds; the first, "s," can be indicated in 17 different ways; the second, 36; the third, 17; the fourth, 33; the fifth, 10; the sixth, 17, so that the result is as follows: $17\times36\times17\times33\times10\times17$, and yields the number of different ways in which the word *scissors* can be spelled (see A. J. Ellis' "Plea for Phonetics").

Another of our much-abused letters is "u." Its sound in English is indicated by an extraordinary combination of letters. It stands for "eau" in *beauty*, "ue" in *cue* and *value*, "eu" in *euchre* and *pneumatic*, *ewe* in that word itself, "ui" in *nuisance*, "ew" in *new*, "heu" in *rheumatism*, "hu" in *rhubarb*, "ieu" in *lieu*, "ough" in *through*, "u" in *unite*, and "ou" in *you*.

The pronunciation of the digraph "ow" is almost an unsolvable puzzle to the foreigner who comes to our shores. He finds it used for "ow" in *bow, mow, now, row, sow*; for "o" in *bow, mow, row, sow*, and he is scarcely to be blamed if he characterizes English as the most inconsistent, irrational, and senseless language he has met.

The excuse invariably offered by misspellers for their failing is that in its nature our language is so irregular in its spelling that it is full of orthographic riddles. There is a great deal of truth in this. Few foreigners can tell from the spoken word what combination of letters to use in spelling such words as *cough, dough, slough*, and *tough*. A large number of different combinations of letters are used to indicate one and the same sound, and again different sounds are indicated by the same combination

of letters. In 1869 a book was printed in England in which the author (whose name was WISE) showed that there were four thousand different ways in which the name *Shakespeare* could be spelled.

When the word *coffee* was first noted in English literature in 1598, it was spelled *chaoua*. In 1601 it was spelled *coffe*, and was described as "a certain Liquor which will soon intoxicate the brain." In 1623 BACON spelled it *caphe;* Captain JOHN SMITH, the intrepid adventurer, in 1630, and LITHGOW, the thrifty native of Lanark, who walked over 36,000 miles, and then published his "Rare Adventures and Painful Peregrinations of Long Nineteen Years Travayles" in 1632, both spelled it *coffa*, and Blount in 1636, *couphe*. EVELYN was the first to use the form *coffee*. He notes in his "Memoirs" (1658) that "There came in my time to the College (at Oxford) one Nathaniel Conopios out of Greece. He was the first I ever saw drink *coffee*; which custom came not into England until thirty years after." When the Plague struck London (1665), Dr. GEORGE HARVEY recommended his patients "to drink *coffee* against the contagion." The prescription must have been effective, for we have been drinking coffee ever since.

Much faulty spelling is due to lack of education, but more to mispronunciation of words and to the manner in which their phonetic values are indicated in the dictionaries. The average business man at best is a careless speaker. He suffers from the fact that we live in an age of colloquial weakenings of both vowels and consonants. This is due to haste in speech, but the colloquial utterance has found its way into the best of our lexicons, with the result that instead of recording the speech of the most careful speakers of the day, the modern dictionary reflects the pronunciation of the man in the street, and defends this by stating that it records usage.

The pronunciation of that little word *yes*, mistreated by almost every one, is, however, still indicated correctly in the dictionaries of the day, but the time may not be far off when they will reflect usage, that usage which says *yah*, *yeh*, *yep*, and *yuh*, for these corruptions are to be heard on every side; alas, even from the mouths of the educated.

Words, in so far as the teaching of both their pronunciation and spelling are concerned, should not be considered collectively as parts of a sentence but separately as

individual entities, so that the mind may form a mental picture of every syllable of which they are composed. The correct value of each syllabic sound should be taught, and the matter of weakenings, which is more the result of careless voice-inflection than anything else, should be allowed to take care of itself. Take as an example the word "appeal." Syllabicated by the dictionary *ap-peal'*, it is respelled for pronunciation *a-pēl'*; the "a" standing alone loses all the force of the strong consonant that follows it; thus "ap" becomes "a" ("uh"). Now if the dictionary would take under its protection the discarded "p" of the first syllable, and follow the same plan with other words throughout the language, it would help to raise the standard of our orthography as well as of our speech, both of which are at the present time pitiably low.

Faulty pronunciation is the mother of faulty spelling. As an illustration of what this may lead to, there is the story of the Western law partners who were stumped by the word *economical*. They installed in their office an unabridged dictionary to serve as the court of last resort in all matters of spelling, and soon afterwards one asked the other, "Is it *equee-* or *equinomical?*" The partner was not certain, so he countered with "Let's look in the dictionary." And they did, but after looking first under *eque-*, then under *equi-*, they faced each other, the first blurting out in his astonishment, "'Tain't there! Well, what do you think of a man that would get up a big dictionary like that, and not put in such a common word as *equinomical?*"

Just to show what could be done with English letter-values, the late Dr. WAYLAND, of Philadelphia, created the following alphabetic monstrosity—*ghoughphtheightteeau*. This, he explained, was the word *potato* spelled according to the following system: *gh* stands for *p* as in the final letters of *hiccough; ough* for *o* as in *dough; phth* for *t* as in *phthisis; eigh* for *a* as in *neighbor; tte* for *t* as in *gazette*, and *eau* for *o* as in *beau*. Result: *p-o-t-a-t-o*.

As an active supporter of all movements aimed at the amelioration of English orthography, the writer invites the attention of the skeptics to the following earlier forms of spelling that have been modified through the efforts of enthusiasts. Among these none ranks higher on this continent that BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, who in 1768 proposed a phonetic alphabet in which new symbols were added to

represent sounds which up to that time had no representation. Here are a few words given in the spelling that our grandfathers used, and that our fathers did also for a time, but the latter lived to see changes that are only perceptible to us when we investigate the subject:

aera	for	era	foretel	for	foretell
almanak	"	almanac	gulph	"	gulf
appretiate	"	appreciate	ideotic	"	idiotic
avaritious	"	avaricious	imprese	"	impress
bankrupcy	"	bankruptcy	kalendar	"	calendar
bishoprick	"	bishopric	noysome	"	noisome
chargable	"	chargeable	oeconomy	"	economy
chastizement	"	chastisement	phrenzy	"	frenzy
choaked	"	choked	rhetorick	"	rhetoric
cholerick	"	choleric	streight	"	straight
criticize	"	criticise	sprey	"	spray
encyclopedy	"	encyclopedia	suspence	"	suspense
endeavour	"	endeavor	swoln	"	swollen
excell	"	excel	synonymes	"	synonyms
expence	"	expense	yoak	"	yolk

In the compiling of this book, the purpose kept in mind was to supply a guide to correct spelling that will serve persons engaged in commercial pursuits. It is not intended as a primer of spelling but rather as a guide to the words too frequently misspelled in business communications. The vocabulary embraces terms that have been collected by the writer during thirty years of an active business life devoted to the production of books, and includes many words selected from test-lists issued by the Civil Service Commission and several State universities.

Occasionally common misspellings are recorded in vocabulary place, followed by the correct forms, while correct spellings followed by misspelled forms are recorded also in the same order. This plan was adopted for the reason that a person who does not know how to spell a word correctly is more than likely to look for the misspelling than for the correct spelling. Such a one on consulting this book will readily find the misspelled form and there learn how to spell it correctly. Of the misspellings recorded many approximate to the phonetic form. These may be the result of teaching pronunciation by respelling words phonetically, as is done by the dictionaries, or it may perhaps be due to the teaching of spelling by what is termed the word-picture method.

The reader may be surprized to find many words of simple spelling included in the following pages. This is

due to the fact that these words are included in test-lists for spelling issued by some of the leading State universities. The vocabulary is arranged in one alphabetical order, thus avoiding the intricacies of consultation involved in those works of a century or more ago in which the words included were grouped according to the sources of their origin or the number of syllables they contained.

In addition to the main vocabulary, rules for the guidance of the student are included, so that any one who wishes to memorize them can have in mind the principles that govern English spelling. As an aid to the correct division of words, each word has been syllabicated in such a way that the proper division may be seen at a glance. The writer hopes that the following pages may prove useful in imparting the correct spelling of words that are frequently misspelled, and of service to such persons as are occasionally perplexed by the riddles of English orthography.

Because there is much in our language that is purely arbitrary and fortuitous, we should all feel it incumbent on us to punctiliously observe the rules that govern its orthography—rules that establish the standard accepted by the great mass of the educated people of our time—for to-day bad spelling is the stamp of ignorance: it is the seal of vulgarity.

F. H. V.

NEW YORK, *October* 1, 1921.

WORDS WE MISSPELL

RULES FOR SPELLING

Spelling is the art of using the correct letters in the forming of words. This art may be learnt by studying the rules that govern the subject and by noting the exceptions to those rules—for many of our words are not written according to analogy—or by consulting the dictionary. The following rules may prove of service to those persons who find themselves occasionally embarrassed and to others who wish to be accurate.

On Silent and Other Letters

There are very few letters in English that in one combination or another are not silent. This applies to both vowels and consonants, but for some unexplained reason the subject of silent letters has received but scanty attention except from advocates of simplified spelling. Here the purpose is to explain as far as is possible what letters are silent, and to give words in which the silent letters are used in spelling but not heard in pronunciation. The list of words, however, is not to be taken as exhaustive, only typical examples being given.

1. **a** is silent in *bread* (bred); *coal* (cole); *dread* (dred); *each* (eech); *eagle* (eegle); *earl* (erl); *feat* (feet;) *foal* (fole); *goad* (gode); *goal* (gole); *goat* (gote); *head* (hed); *health* (helth); *heap* (heep); *heat* (heet); *impeach* (impeech); *increase* (increese); *jealous* (jelous); *jean* (jeen); *knead* (kneed); *lead* (leed); *lead* (led); *load* (lode); *loan* (lone); *mead* (meed); *mean* (meen); *moan* (mone); *neap* (neep); *neat* (neet); *oak* (oke); *oakum* (okum); *oar* (or); *oat* (ote); *oath* (oth); *pea* (pee); *peace* (peece); *peach* (peech); *peak* (peek); *peal* (peel); *pearl* (perl); *poach* (poche); *quean* (queen); *queasy* (queezy); *read* (red); *realm* (relm); *road* (rode); *roar* (ror); *roach* (roche); *sea* (see); *seal* (seel); *seam* (seem); *sean* (seen); *seat* (seet); *soak* (soke); *soap* (sope); *soar* (sore); *tea* (tee); *teach* (teech); *teak* (teek); *teal* (teel); *team* (teem); *toad* (tode); *toast* (toste); *vain*

(vane); *veal* (veel); *weald* (weeld); *wealth* (welth); *wean* (ween); *weather* (wether); *weave* (weeve); *woad* (wode); *yeast* (yeest); *zeal* (zeel).

2. **b** is silent after *m* in the same syllable; as *bomb, climb, comb, thumb,* but not in *rhomb.* It is silent before *t* when not in compounds, as, *debt, subtle.* Initial *b* is silent in *bdellium.*

3. **c** is silent following *s* and before *le,* as in *corpuscle, muscle;* before *t,* as in *ctenophore, indict, victuals,* and before *z,* as in *czar, czarina, czarevitz,* etc.

4. **d** is silent in *handkerchief, handsome;* in the first syllable of *Wednesday,* and also in the first syllable of *granddaughter, grandfather, grandmother,* as commonly pronounced.

5. **e** is silent when initial before *u,* as in *eugenics* (yu-jenics), *eulogy* (yuloji), *euphony* (yufoni), etc.; when medial, as in *forearm, forecast, foreign.* It is silent also when final following a consonant at the end of a syllable, as in *bade, bede* (a pickax), *curse, deme* (a Greek district), *dime, dome, done, purse, vice, vise.*

6. **f** in *hereof, of, thereof, whereof* has the sound of *v.*

7. **g** is silent when initial before *n,* as in *gnat, gnaw, gneiss, gnome.* It is silent also before *m* and *n* final, as in *phlegm, condign, sign.*

8. **h** is silent when initial only in a few English words, as *heir, honest, honor, hour,* and words derived from them. Formerly *h* was silent in *herb, hostler, humble, humor* but is now aspirated in these words. In certain English proper names, the *h* is not heard, as in *Durham,* etc.

Until recently, it was not the practise in England to pronounce the *h* in such words as, *what, where, which, who,* etc.

9. **i** is silent in combination with *ui,* as in *fruit, suit,* the *ui* being only a symbol of *u.* In the combinations *ai* and *ei,* as in *ail, veil,* the *i* is heard very faintly or not at all.

10. **k** is silent before *n,* as in *knell, knife, knot, knowledge.*

11. **l** is silent in *alm, almond, balk, balm, calf, calk, calm, calve, chaldron, chalk, could, falcon, folk, half, halser, halve, malmsey, palm, psalm, qualm, salmon, salve, should, solder, stalk, talk, walk, would.* It was formerly silent in *holm,* but is now pronounced by correct speakers.

12. Initial **m** is silent before *n,* as in *mnemonics, mnemonize, Mnemosyne.*

13. **n** is sometimes silent when final and following *m*, as in *condemn, contemn, damn, solemn.*

14. **o** is silent after *a* and *e*, as in *gaol* (jale); *jeopard* (jepard); and before *e* and *u* as in *people* (peepul); *sojourn* (sojurn).

15. **p** is silent when initial before *n*, *s*, *sh*, and *t*, as in *pneumatic, pneumonia, psalm, pseudonym, pshaw, psora, Psyche, psychology, ptarmigan, pterodactyl, ptochocracy* (government by paupers), *Ptolemy, ptomain.* It is silent also in *corps* (a body of troops), *cupboard, raspberry, receipt.* A century ago, it was silent also when medial and occurring between *m* and *t*, as in *empty, peremptory, presumptuous, redemption, sumptuous.*

16. **q** in English, commonly followed by *u* whether initial, as in *queen, question;* medial, as in *conqueror, equal, liquor*, or final, as in *antique, cheque, grotesque*, has the sound of *k* followed by *w* except when final; then it has the sound of *k*. When it occurs in words derived from the French, as *casque, coquette, croquet, questionnaire*, it has the sound of *k*.

17. **r** is silent in *farther*, which is commonly pronounced *fa'ther.* For its various phonetic values, see "A Desk-Book of 25,000 Words Frequently Mispronounced," page 715.

18. **s** following a vowel or a voiced consonant is generally pronounced *z*, but there are certain exceptions. Common substitutes for *s* in English are *c* before any high vowel, *ce* for final, *sc*, and *se*, as in *racy, race, scent, ense.*

19. **t** is silent after *f* and *s* when followed by *l*, *m*, and *n*, as in *castle, Christmas, often.* It is sometimes pronounced like *ch* when followed by *u*, as in *actuate, nature, picture.*

20. **u** is silent after *g* when hard and obscure when it occurs in a final syllable; as, *catalogue, dialogue, epilogue, guaranty, guard, guess, plague, prologue, rogue, tongue.*

21. **w** is silent when initial before *r*, as in *wrack, wraith, wrangle, wrap, wreck, write, wrote, wrung, wry.* It is silent before *h*, as in *who, whoever, whole, whom, whoop*, etc., and is silent also in the following words, *answer, awry, sword, toward, two.*

22. **x** is sometimes silent when final, as in *billet-doux*, and sometimes heard, as in *box.* It is sometimes pronounced like *z*, as in *Xantippe.*

Spelling

Compound words even if they change the position of the principal accent always retain the double letter, as in *broad'-brimmed; duck'-legged; grass'-hopper; hare'-lipped; half'-witted; kid'napper.*

Some writers challenge the desirability of doubling the *p* in such words as *kidnapper, worshipper,* etc. Both forms are in good use.

Consonants are doubled before suffixes in monosyllabic words ending in a single consonant, preceded by a single vowel, before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as *bab, babbed; bib, bibbed; bob, bobbed; dab, dabbed; rip, ripped; rob, robbed.* Accented final syllables follow the same rule, as *a-bet', a-bet'tor; ab-hor', ab-hor'rent; ac-quit', ac-quit'tal, ac-quit'tance; bag, bag'gage; be-gin', be-gin'ner; can, can'ner; com-mit', com-mit'ter, com-mit'ting, com-mit'tee; con-cur', con-cur'rence; dip, dip'per; fop, fop'pish, fop'pery; man, man'nish; re-mit', re-mit'tance; squat, squat'ter, squat'ting; swim, swim'mer, swim'ming; thin, thin'ner, thin'nest.*

EXCEPTIONS: (1) When the accent in the derivative is carried further back, the consonant usually remains single as, *re-fer' ref'er-ence; pre-fer'; pref'er-ence,* but *pre-fer'ring, ref'er-able,* and also *re-fer'rible.*

(2) Syllables ending in *x* do not double the final letter, as *box, box-es, box-ing.*

(3) The derivatives of the word *gas,* except *gassed, gassing,* and *gassy,* are written with but one *s,* as *gaseous.*

Final consonants, when single and *preceded by a long vowel,* are followed by a silent *e,* as *anecdote, decade, profile.* Many words ending with short vowels also have final *e* silent. A single consonant when *preceded by a single short vowel* commonly drops final *e,* as *utensil,* not *utensile.*

Final consonants are doubled in dissyllabic words before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as, *cancel, cancellation; crystal, crystallization; excel, excellence; tranquil, tranquillity.*

EXCEPTIONS: *benefit, benefited; prefer, preference; transfer, transferable.*

Final consonants are doubled in monosyllabic words ending in *f, l, s,* or *t,* when these are immediately preceded by a single vowel; as *cliff, bell, brass, butt.*

EXCEPTIONS: *clef, if, of, sol, as, gas, has, his, is, thus, us, was, yes,* but the monosyllable *all* drops one *l* in *almighty, already, also, altogether, always* retaining both in such compounds as *all-sided, allspice,* etc.

Final Consonants are not doubled when any word of one syllable ends with another consonant than *f, l,* or *s* (see these letters), as *bar, bin, cab, cat, cup, cur, cut, dip, dog, fix, hit, mob, nod, sum, sun, whiz.*

EXCEPTIONS: *abb, add, burr, butt, buzz, ebb, egg, err, fizz, fuzz, inn, jagg, mitt, odd, purr, ragg.* The words *abb* and *add* are not to be confused with *ab-* (*from*), and *ad-* (*to*) used as prefixes. There are also the words *bur, but, in, jag,* and *rag* distinct from the words given above that conform to the rule.

Derivatives that are formed by adding a suffix beginning with a vowel, do not double the final consonant when it is preceded by a diphthong or digraph, as *avoid-able, congeal-able,* nor when the accent falls on any syllable other than the last, as *peril-ous,* nor when two distinct consonants end the word, as *detach-able.*

In derivative words formed from roots ending with silent *e* following *c* or *g*, the *e* is commonly retained before *a* or *o*, as *agree-able, courage-ous.*

Digraphs are formed by combining with a short vowel an additional one which may be placed before or after it, such as *ea* as in *each, ei* as in *either, ai* as in *aisle, ay* as in *aye, oa* as in *boat, uy* as in *guy.* Of these combinations some are pronounced like the long sound of the first vowel, particularly the digraphs *ai, ea,* and *oa.*

Suffixes and Special Letters

-able, -ible: *-able* is used after verb-stems ending in *a; -ible* is a suffix of adjectives from Latin stems not *a*-stems. In some ill-formed modern words *-able* has the power of "full," as *veritable* (full of truth), *charitable* (full of charity), *profitable* (full of profit), *sociable* (full of companionship), etc. Of these combinations four-fifths of the English words end in *-able.* The spelling of words derived from the Latin depends upon the Latin root. Words derived from the Anglo-Saxon are always spelled *-able.* See -IBLE.

-ance, -ancy. Suffixes used in forming from adjectives in *-ant* and from verbs, nouns denoting action, quality,

or state, as *forbearance, perseverance; brilliance, brilliancy; constant, constancy; hesitant, hesitancy; insolvent, insolvency.*

Be careful to distinguish from *-ence*, because words with *-ance* and *-ence* approximate phonetically in colloquial speech. See -ENCE.

-ant. Suffix used to denote the act or process of doing what is denoted by the stem; used to form adjectives with nearly the meaning of the participle, as *assistant, combatant, extravagant, luxuriant, militant.* See -ENT.

-ar. A suffix designating "pertaining to, like etc." and pronounced as a weak vowel; it is used in such words as *regular, scholar, singular.* As a contraction of *-ayr* or *-er*, refashioned in the imitation of *-ar*, it is used in *vicar*, from Middle English *viker*, and *vicary*. *-ar* is used also as a form of *-er*, as in *beggar.*

-ary. A suffix used to denote (1) adjectives connected with or pertaining to, as *elementary, honorary, secondary;* (2) in nouns (a) a person employed or engaged in, as *antiquary, apothecary, secretary;* (b) a thing connected with or placed dedicated to, as *diary, dictionary, sanctuary, synonymary;* (3) character (through modern French *-aire*) as *military, salutary.* Compare -ERY; -ORY.

c. This letter has two sounds, one hard, the other soft. *C* is *hard* like *k* before *a, o,* or *u,* as *cake, cork, curd,* or at the end of a syllable when not followed by *i* or *e,* as *music,* and before any consonant excepting *h,* as *claim, craft. C* is *soft* like *s* when preceding *e, i,* or *y,* as *cedar, cider, cyclone.*

Monosyllabic words ending with the sound of *k* where *c* follows a vowel commonly take *k* after the *c,* as *back, beck, click, clock, cluck.*

Words having more than one syllable with the sound of *k* where *c* follows a vowel or other vowels than *i* or *ia* commonly take *k* after the *c,* as *attack, barrack, cocksure, pucker.*

EXCEPTIONS to this rule are *havoc,* but *havocked, havocking; picnic,* but *picnicked, picnicking; shellac,* but *shellacked, shellacking.*

Words having more than one syllable that end with the sound of *k* in which *c* is preceded by *i* or *ia* are commonly written without the final *k,* as *mimic, maniac.*

-cede, -ceed, and -sede. These suffixes being pronounced alike in speech care must be taken to distinguishing them from one another in spelling. There are

several *-cede's—accede, concede, intercede, precede, recede,* and *secede;* but three *-ceed's—exceed, proceed, and succeed*; and only one *-sede—supersede.*

ck (*final*). English monosyllables and verbs do not end with *c* but take *ck* instead of double *c*, as in *back, deck, rack, rock, wreck.* Words derived from classical languages discard the *k*, as in *italic, maniac, music, picnic, public.*

EXCEPTIONS to this rule are *arc* (the part of a circle); *lac* (a gum or resin); *sac*, and *talc.* Seventy-five years or more ago, it was suggested that in words of this kind *k* be substituted for *c;* thus, *disc* would become *disk; marc* would become *mark; talc* would become *talck; zinc* would become *zink*, but only two of these have found favor—*mark* and *disk.*

e (*silent*) is *retained* in words formed from root-words ending with silent *e* when the suffix begins with a consonant, as *abate, abatement; advance, advancement; amaze, amazement; care, careful; dire, direful; change, changeless; engage, engagement; fine, finely; grave, gravely; name, namesake; pale, paleness.*

When silent *e* is preceded by another vowel excepting *e*, notwithstanding that the suffix begins with a consonant, the *e* is dropped from the derivative, *due, duly; true, truly; whole, wholly; argue, argument; abridge, abridgment; acknowledge, acknowledgment; awe, awful; judge, judgment; lodge, lodgment.*

When a root-word ending with an *e* takes a suffix beginning with a *vowel* the final *e* is generally dropped; as, *abate, abatable; amuse, amusing; bride, bridal; cease, ceasing; come, coming; force, forcible; lame, lamable; love, lovable, loved, loving; sense, sensible.*

EXCEPTIONS to this rule are *advantageous, courageous, canoeing, changeable, dyeing, fleeing, hoeing, shoeing, toeing, mileage, pieing, singeing, tingeing, twingeing.*

-ed, -ing. Words ending with a silent vowel, as *bathe, believe, bide, bore, bubble,* drop the final *e* before the participial endings *-ed* and *-ing*, as *bath-ed, bath-ing, believ-ed, believ-ing; bid-ed, bid-ing; bor-ed, bor-ing; bubbl-ed, bubbl-ing.*

ei. This digraph is pronounced (1) as *e* in *deceive, receive,* etc.; (2) as *e* in "they" in *eight, freight, neighbor, rein,* and *veil;* (3) as *e* in "pen" in *heifer*, and (4) as *i* in "pin" in *foreign, forfeit, surfeit.*

ei and ie. When *ei* or *ie* has the sound of *e* in *me*, the usage may be distinguished as follows:—

After *c* the combination is *ei* as, *ceiling, perceive, receipt, receive.* After another letter than *c* the combination is *ie* as, *believe, grieve, reprieve.* Compare IE.

EXCEPTIONS: *ancient, deficient, efficient, financier, leisure, proficient, seize, species,* and *sufficient.*

-ence, -ency. Suffixes used to form words denoting action, quality, or condition; as, *diffidence, evidence, excellence, prominence, residence; complacence, complacency, constituency, despondence, despondency, frequence, frequency.*

-ent. Suffix used to form adjectives denoting quality, or nouns of agency, as *adjacent, absorbent, fraudulent, innocent, opulent, pestilent, president, student.* See -ANT.

-er. A suffix used to form (1) nouns of agency, as in *blotter, cutter, poker, reaper;* (2) comparative degrees of adjectives and adverbs, as *harder, sooner, warmer,* or as a substitute for final *e,* as in *late, later,* etc.; or when final *y* changes to *i,* as in *earlier,* etc.; (3) frequentative adverbs, as *quaver, shudder.* It denotes (1) condition, place of dwelling, etc., as *prisoner, villager, New Yorker,* etc., and (5) a person, principal or agent, as *checker, gardener, interpreter, singer,* etc., or when the original noun ends with a *w,* as *lawyer, sawyer,* etc., or with the addition of an *i,* as *brasier, collier,* etc. See -OR.

-ery. A suffix used in nouns of French origin, and by analogy in other cases, denoting a business, place of business, place where things are collected, or the things themselves, as *confectionery, hosiery, stationery.* See -ARY; -ORY.

f (*final*) when preceded by a single vowel is doubled in words of one syllable; as, *chaff, gaff, staff; feffe* (obsolete form of *feoff*); *off; cliff, skiff, stiff, tiff, whiff; cuff, luff, muff, snuff, stuff.*

EXCEPTIONS: *clef, if, of* are written with only one *f.*

When final *f* immediately follows a diphthong or double vowels it is seldom doubled; as, *deaf, leaf; brief, briefer, briefest; grief; coif.* EXCEPTION: *quaff.*

full. When this word is used as a suffix, it drops one *l* and is changed to *-ful;* thus, *cupful* (not *cupfull*), *mouthful, spoonful,* and the plural is formed by the addition of *s,* as *cupfuls, mouthfuls, spoonfuls.*

g. This letter is *hard* before the vowels *a, o, u,* and *i,* as in *garden, God, good, gum* and *gift.* It is sometimes hard also before *e* as in *get.* It is always hard before any consonant as in *glove, glum, grieve, grove, grave.*

Final *g* is usually *hard* in its root-word and derivatives formed from that word, as, *beg, beggar; big, bigger; fog, foggy; keg, kegger.* A few words ending in *g*, double the final consonant to prevent its being pronounced like *j*, as *humbug, humbugging.*

g is *soft* before *e* in *badger, edge, gem,* before *i* in *gin, ginger* and *magic,* and before *y* in *gymnasium,* etc.

-ible. A suffix of adjectives derived from Latin stems not *a*-stems, an equivalent to *-able* of English adjectives, as *credible, edible, flexible, forcible, horrible, legible, risible, sensible, terrible,* etc. Compare -ABLE.

ie. This digraph is usually pronounced as *e* in *bee,* or *ĭ* in *machine,* but also has the sound of *e* in *moment,* as in *patient,* and *i* as in *pin,* as in *sieve* (*siv*), and of *i* in *pine,* as in *pie.* Followed by *u* or *w,* it takes the diphthongal sound heard in *purlieu* and *view.* Compare EI.

-ing. See under -ED.

-ion, -sion. A suffix denoting action, *-ion* indicates the action of the root-verb; as, *affliction,* the state of distress; *question,* the act of inquiring; *temptation,* the act of tempting, or state of being tempted. *-ion* is used sometimes with *s* before it, or sometimes with *t,* as a suffix denoting an act of, state of being; as, *ascension,* the act of going up; *collision,* the act of colliding; *vision,* the act or power of seeing; *ambition,* the act of aspiring.

-ise, -ize, and **-yze.** The second of these forms is the more common in the United States, but words that have been drawn from the French and all formed by the use of prefixes are invariably spelled with *-ise: advert-ise, ad-vise, a-rise, com-prise, des-pise, de-vise, ex-cise, franchise, sur-mise; author-ize, cap-size, civil-ize, criti-cize, empha-size, sur-prize.* See the vocabulary for other words, the majority of which, however, are spelled with a *z.*

With reference to the words recorded by the dictionaries as ending in *-ise* it is necessary to point out that this suffix has frequently been used by persons unfamiliar with the correct form *-ize.* Sir James A. H. Murray in his "New English Dictionary on Historical Principles," records the *-ise* forms of words in the vocabulary of his work only when these are sanctioned by the best usage. When not so sanctioned, the use is recorded but the variant or erroneous spelling is not included in the vocabulary. Some words derived from the Greek are spelled *-yze;* as, *analyze, paralyze.*

EXCEPTIONS: (1) *Catechise, chastise, exercise, exorcise,* and *merchandise* are usually written with *s;* and *analyze, assize, detonize, overprize,* and *recognize* and *size,* with *z.* How many more exceptions there are to this rule it is difficult to say. (2) *Prise,* a thing seized, and *prize,* a reward, or as a verb, to esteem. *Apprise,* to inform, and *apprize,* to value, or appraise, are written either way without distinction of meaning.

-ive. This suffix is commonly pronounced *-iv* and is used to denote (1) doing or serving to do, as *affirmative, derivative, exclusive;* (2) relation or belonging to, as *consecutive, representative;* (3) having the character or nature or quality of, as *excessive, lucrative;* (4) predisposition to (some action), as *abortive, decisive, incisive, negative.*

This suffix commonly follows words ending in *t* or *s.*

l, when *final* and not *preceded by a single vowel* is doubled in words of one syllable, as in *ball, bell, bill, boll, bull,* etc. See LL (below).

EXCEPTIONS: *bul* (a flounder); *nul* (for *no* in law); *sol* (for *sou* or *sun*), and *sal* (for *salt,* in chemistry).

The words *annul, until, distil, extol,* and *instil,* are correctly spelled with one *l* for *null, till,* and *still* are not their roots, but rather contractions of later growth.

l, when final and *not preceded by a single vowel,* or when the accent is not on the last syllable of a word, is not doubled when the syllable is added, as *bail, bailing; coil, coiling, dial, dialing, dialist; foil, foiling; oil, oiling; peril, perilous; real, realize, realist; toil, toiling.*

EXCEPTIONS: Words ending in *el* when the final *l* is doubled before another vowel, as in *duel, duellist; gravel, gravelling; marvel, marvellous; revel, revelling.* In *travel,* the word *traveler* is spelled with one or two *l's, traveler, traveller*—the first spelling is that preferred in the United States; the second in Great Britain. The word *parallel* forms its derivatives *paralleled, paralleling.*

The preterits, participles, and derivative-nouns of some verbs ending in *-al, -il,* or *-ol* unaccented, as *carol, cavil, equal, gambol, marshal, pencil, pistol, vial,* are commonly doubled, notwithstanding that some authorities do not conform to this practise—*carol, carolled, carolling; cavil, cavilled, cavilling; equal, equalled; gambol, gambolled, gambolling; marshal, marshalled, marshalling; pencil, pencilled, pencilling; pistol, pistolled, pistolling; vial, vialled, vialling.* See LL (below).

ll, *final*, occurs in words of one syllable, as in *ball, call, fall, gall, hall*, etc., *bell, cell, fell, hell, knell*, etc., *bill, dill, fill, gill, hill, jill, kill*, etc., *boll, doll, knoll, loll*, etc., *bull, dull, full, gull, hull*, etc.

ll, medial, occurs in dissyllabic words; as, *callous, colleague, college, fallible, malleable*, etc.

ll, initial, occurs in foreign words or proper names, as *llama, llano, Llandudno, Llewellyn, Lloyd's*, etc.

-ly. When this suffix is added to a monosyllable ending in *l*, the final *l* of the root word is retained, as in *cool, coolly; civil, civilly; cruel, cruelly; oral, orally; real, really; wool, woolly.* When it is added to a trisyllabic word ending with a single *l* both *l's* are retained; as, *beautiful, beautiful-ly.*

-or. This suffix is used to form (1) nouns of agency, as *competitor, director, governor, operator, predecessor, successor;* (2) abstract and concrete nouns, as *ancestor, behavior, elevator, inferior, visitor.* Compare -ER.

-ory. This suffix is used with nouns and adjectives of Latin origin, in nouns signifying place, as *dormitory, reflectory, oratory, purgatory;* in adjectives, signifying relating to, of the nature of, etc., as *amatory, depository, lavatory, repository.* Compare -ARY; -ERY.

-ous. This suffix is used to denote possession or presence of a quality in any degree, commonly in fulness or abundance, as *ambiguous, amphibious, arduous, barbarous, boisterous, conscious, herbaceous, indigenous, obnoxious, obvious, odorous.*

In derivatives formed by adding a suffix that begins with a vowel, when the stress falls on any other syllable than the last, the final consonant is not doubled, as *dan'ger-ous, per'i-lous.*

s, *final*, when preceded by a single vowel is doubled in words of one syllable, as in *bass, class; less, mess; bliss, hiss, kiss; loss, moss; fuss, muss, puss.*

EXCEPTIONS: *as, gas, has, his, is, pus, this, thus, us, was, yes.* (See Plurals of Nouns.) Also, the inflections of verbs; as, *has, is, was, loves*, etc.

x as the equivalent of *ks* is never doubled; thus, *box, boxer, boxing; mix, mixer, mixing.* The only place in which this letter is ever doubled is when it is used as a Roman numeral and stands for figures as: $XX = 20$; $XXX = 30$.

y. (1) When a root-word ends in *y* which is preceded by a consonant, the final *y* is changed into *i* when a suffix

is added whether or not that suffix begins with a vowel or a consonant, as, *ally, allies; beauty, beautiful; busy, business; century, centuries; duty, dutiful; injury, injurious; mercy, mercies; merry, merriest; pity, pities; sky, skies; spicy, spicier.*

EXCEPTIONS: *annoy, annoyance, annoyer, annoying; baby, babyhood; boy, boyish, boyhood; buy, buyer; carry, carrying; city, city-like; destroy, destroyer, destroying; dry, dryly; enjoy, enjoying; gray, grayish; hurry, hurrying; joy, joyful; lady, ladyship; marry, marrying; secretary, secretaryship; shy, shyness; valley, valleys.*

(2) *y* following *t* changes to *e* when *-ous* is added; as, *beauty, beauteous.*

EXCEPTIONS: Adjectives of one syllable ending in *y* preceded by a consonant ordinarily retain the *y;* as *dry, dry-ly; shy, shy-ly.* See section (1).

y final *remains unchanged* in the plurals of nouns when the *y* is preceded by a vowel and the plural is formed by the addition of *s;* as, *day, days; donkey, donkeys; monkey, monkeys; guy, guys.*

RULES GOVERNING THE PLURALS OF NOUNS

I. Regular Plurals. The plurals of English nouns are regularly formed by adding *s* or *es* to the singular; as, arm, *arms;* bee, *bees;* boy, *boys;* gas, *gases;* metropolis, *metropolises.* Final *s* after a vowel, or after any consonant except *c* (= *k*), *f, k, p,* and *t,* has the sound of *z.*

The distinction between *s* and *es* is as follows: (*a*) When a noun ends with a sound that will unite euphonically with the sound of *s* or of *z,* the plural is regularly formed by simply adding *s* to the singular; as ape, *apes;* block, *blocks;* cow, *cows;* dog, *dogs,* etc. (*b*) When a noun ends with a sound that will not unite euphonically with the sound of *s* or of *z* the letter *e* is added before the *s,* forming an additional syllable, *es,* unless the noun itself ends in *e,* in which case the *s* is added to the *e,* and forms the additional syllable; as, box, *boxes;* church, *churches;* cross, *crosses;* edge, *edges.*

II. Variations and Exceptions. 1. Nouns ending in *o* preceded by a vowel form the plural regularly in *s;* as, bamboo, *bamboos;* cameo, *cameos.* Nouns ending in *o* pre-

ceded by a consonant usually add *es* to form the plural, but without increasing the number of syllables; as, cargo, *cargoes;* motto, *mottoes;* negro, *negroes;* mosquito, *mosquitoes;* potato, *potatoes;* hero, *heroes,* etc. A few such nouns, especially some not fully Anglicized, take *s* to form the plural; as, canto, *cantos;* solo, *solos;* zero, *zeros.* For nouns ending in *o* of foreign derivation retaining their foreign form in the plural, see III, 4.

2. Nouns ending in *y* preceded by a vowel form the plural by simply adding *s* to the singular form; as, alley, *alleys;* buoy, *buoys;* donkey, *donkeys;* monkey, *monkeys;* valley, *valleys.* Nouns terminating in *y* preceded by a consonant change *y* into *i* and add *es* to form the plural; as, ally, *allies;* berry, *berries;* century, *centuries;* dairy, *dairies;* enemy, *enemies;* fly, *flies;* lady, *ladies;* spy, *spies.* The word *money* takes either of two forms, *moneys* or *monies.*

III. Irregular Plurals. 1. Certain nouns from the Anglo-Saxon retain a plural form very different from the singular, often changing the chief vowel sound from one that is broad or open to one narrower or closer; as, child, *children;* foot, *feet;* goose, *geese;* louse, *lice;* man, *men;* mouse, *mice;* ox, *oxen;* tooth, *teeth;* woman, *women.* The following have two forms in the plural: brother, in ordinary use *brothers,* but in archaic or solemn style *brethren;* die, in most senses *dies;* but as denoting the marked cubes for games *dice;* pea, now most commonly *peas,* but also, especially as denoting a quantity collectively, *pease;* penny, for coins by number *pennies,* but for amount of value *pence.*

2. A few nouns retain the singular form unchanged in the plural; as, *deer, fish, hose, moose, quail, perch, series, species, sheep, vermin.* Some such nouns, especially the names of animals, have also an alternative plural regularly formed; as, fish, *fish* or *fishes;* quail, *quail* or *quails,* etc. In such cases there is usually a distinction in meaning or usage; *fish,* for instance, denoting a number or quantity as a whole, and *fishes* referring more distinctively to the individuals. Thus in *John* xxi, 10, 11, we find, "Bring of the *fish* [the total] which ye have now caught. Simon Peter . . . drew the net to land full of great *fishes* [noted and counted one by one], a hundred and fifty and three." So one might say, "The pond is full of *perch,*" or, "This fish is

one of the *perches"; i.e.*, of the various genera or species included under the name "perch."

3. Most nouns ending in *f* or *fe* form the plural regularly by simply adding *s;* as, belief, *beliefs;* chief, *chiefs;* muff, *muffs;* puff, *puffs;* strife, *strifes.* But a number of nouns ending in *f* or *fe* change *f* into *v* and add *es* in the plural, without increasing the number of syllables, notably: beef, *beeves;* calf, *calves;* elf, *elves;* half, *halves;* knife, *knives;* leaf, *leaves;* life, *lives;* loaf, *loaves;* self, *selves;* sheaf, *sheaves;* shelf, *shelves;* thief, *thieves;* wharf, *wharves;* wife, *wives;* wolf, *wolves.* The noun "staff" may have the regular plural *staffs,* or, more commonly, *staves* (preferably pronounced stāvz.) Compounds of "staff" form the plural regularly in *s,* as *flagstaffs.*

4. Many words of foreign derivation retain the plural form peculiar to the languages from which they are severally derived; as, addendum, *addenda;* antithesis, *antitheses;* arcanum, *arcana;* automaton, *automata;* axis, *axes;* basis, *bases;* crisis, *crises;* criterion, *criteria;* datum, *data;* genus, *genera;* memorandum, *memoranda,* etc. Many nouns of this class have also a plural of the regular English form; as ambo, *ambos* or *ambones;* appendix, *appendixes* or *appendices;* beau, *beaus* or *beaux;* cherub, *cherubs* or *cherubim;* excursus, *excursus* or *excursuses;* focus, *focuses* or *foci;* hippopotamus, *hippopotamuses* or *hippopotami;* index, *indexes* or *indices,* etc. The noun "genius," denoting exalted intellectual power or a person possessing it, becomes *geniuses* in the plural, whereas "genius," a tutelary spirit of the like, has its plural *genii.*

IV. Plurals of Compounds. Compounds commonly form the plural regularly by adding *s* or *es* to the complete word; as, armful, *armfuls;* cupful, *cupfuls* (see -FUL); cutthroat, *cutthroats;* football, *footballs;* footstep, *footsteps;* handful, *handfuls;* mantrap, *mantraps;* spoonful, *spoonfuls.* The first element of a compound composed of two nouns, even when it refers to a whole class of things, is never pluralized. We say *bookkeeper, fox-hunter, hair-brush,* not *bookskeeper, foxes-hunter,* or *hairs-brush.* If the last element of the compound forms its plural irregularly, the same form usually appears in the plural of the compound; as, footman, *footmen.* Nouns that end in *-man,* but are not compounds, form the plural regularly by adding *s,* as German, *Germans;* Mussulman, *Mussulmans.* But com-

pounds in which the principal word forms the first element change that element to form the plural; as, father-in-law, *fathers-in-law;* son-in-law, *sons-in-law.*

V. Common Errors in the formation of Plurals. As violations of the principles of grammatical construction in the use of the plural, these are exceedingly numerous. They most commonly arise from the violation of any one of the following rules:

1. In the *grammatical inflection* of words.

(1) See Rule IV. *Courts martial* and *cousins german* are not exceptions to the rule given above, for *court martial* is a phrase made up of a noun and an adjective—simply *martial court;* the same is true of *cousin german, knight errant,* etc.

(2) See Rule II, 2.

(3) The second element of a compound whose first element is a numeral adjective is not pluralized; thus, a *ten-foot* (not *ten-feet*) rule; a *three-story* house; a *two-mile* race.

(4) Certain words denoting a quantity, measure, weight, or the like, are used in the singular after a numerical adjective; as, *brace, couple, dozen, gross, head, pair, score, yoke.* We say "three *dozen* eggs"; "twenty *head* of cattle"; "five *yoke* of oxen." The number of words so used is much less than formerly, and tends to diminish; three *pairs* of shoes would by very many persons be preferred to three *pair.*

2. In the *grammatical construction* of words.

(1) Nouns plural in form, but singular in sense, should not be used with plural construction; as, "The latest news *is,*" not "The latest news *are*"; "No other means *is* to be found," not "No other means *are* to be found"; "Economics *is* a useful study," not "Economics *are,*" etc. We say correctly "This is a means to an end"; but when *means* refer to more than one device, plan, or the like, it is plural; as, "Various *means* were tried." We say also "His remains *were* laid in the grave," because the word is commonly used for *parts that are left of anything,* as the remains of a fence, of a ruined castle, of a dinner, etc.

(2) A multiple, or a sum or collection of units, is viewed as a singular, and should be so used. "That hundred dollars *is* here" is correct when the amount is viewed as *one sum.* When the separate coins are referred to, the expression is plural; as, "Those hundred dollars *were* all coined last year." Whether we should say "Three times three *are*

nine," or "Three times three *is* nine," "Seven and five *are* [or *is*] twelve," depends upon whether the numbers are regarded as made up of so many separate factors, or simply as an aggregate. The mathematical sign = is always read "equals," whatever the quantities preceding it, which seems to favor the use of *is* in like situations.

(3) A singular subject takes a singular verb, even when that subject is followed by a dependent plural; as, "A great quantity of fossil remains *was* found," not "A great quantity . . . *were* found." Violations of this rule can always be avoided by a simple test: leave out all the dependent words, see what verbal form the subject then requires, and use that form, regardless of the dependent words intervening. "Not one of our friends *were* present"; cut out the dependent phrase "of our friends," and "Not one . . . *were*" is at once seen to be incorrect; the sentence should be "Not *one* of our friends *was* present."

(4) *Each* and *every* require singular verbs. A violation of this rule is a common form of the error just noted. Fitzedward Hall (*Modern English* ch. iv, p. 117) quotes from Bentley. "The words . . . *every one* of which *were* in print before I used them." This should, of course, be "*every one* . . . *was*." "*Each* of the men *were* paid a dollar"; evidently "*Each* . . . *was*."

(5) Collective nouns are followed by verbs and pronouns in the singular or in the plural according as they are regarded collectively or distributively. In the sentence "There *was* a large congregation," the assembly is spoken of collectively, or as a whole. If the word is used distributively, that is, if anything suggests the idea of the component *individuals*, a plural verb should be used, as in the sentence "The congregation *were* not all of the same opinion." The choice of a singular or a plural verb in cases where either form would be proper is hence often influenced by the writer's way of looking at the subject.

(6) A pronoun must agree in number with its antecedent. An indefinite antecedent is often mistaken for a plural, as in the sentence "If any one has been overlooked *they* may raise their hand." This error arises from the lack, in our language, of a singular pronoun of common gender. No one but a lawyer would care to say "If any one has been overlooked, *he* or *she* may raise *his* or *her* hand." The common solutions are: (1) To alter the construction, using

the definite article, where it is necessary, instead of the pronoun; as, "Any one who has been overlooked may raise *the* hand," or "If any of you have been overlooked, you may raise your hand." (2) To use *he* in its general sense as representing both masculine and feminine.

(7) A plural verb or pronoun should never be used with two subjects in the singular connected by a simple disjunctive, as *or*. Not "he *or* she *has* no control of their nerves," as used by Dr. Charles Hastings, of Toronto, in his "Health Bulletin," but "he *and* she *have* no control of their nerves."

ON THE DIVISION OF WORDS

In writing and printing, words are divided into syllables which are formed according to certain rules based upon a sound, or a combination of sounds, uttered together, or at a single impulse of the voice. These syllables may constitute a word, or a part of a word, but there are some words, which when spoken consist of two sounds that can not be separated into syllables because no syllable can be formed without the aid of a vowel. For example, **chaos** is a dissyllabic word and is divided *cha'os*, but **chasm**, although pronounced as if spelled *chas'um*, can not be divided because the second element of the word lacks the necessary vowel. Other words undividable for the same reason are **prism** and **spasm.**

There are also certain other terms that contain the necessary vowels to enable one to form two syllables but usage has treated these as monosyllabic, hence they are never divided: **ail**, pronounced *a'il;* **flour**, pronounced *flow'er;* **hour**, pronounced *ow'er.* The pronunciations given here are not noted in the same way by the dictionaries because the systems of diacritics used by lexicons to indicate phonetic sounds contain vowel symbols, as *a* in "ale" and *e* in "they," that serve the purpose for which they have been devised and approximate closely enough to accuracy to represent the sounds heard when the words are spoken.

There are many other words in the monosyllabic class that contain two vowels, but these are inseparable, as *ai* in "pain," pronounced *pane; ea* in "beak," pronounced *beek; ei* in "eight," pronounced *ate; ie* in "brief," pronounced *breef*, etc.

In some other words the stress of voice isolates a symbol, as at the end of a word, as in *fluff'y, flum'mer-y, murk'y, mys'ter-y.*

Two systems for dividing words into syllables are used. Of these that originated in 1891 by the late Dr. Francis A. March, for the STANDARD DICTIONARY, has been received with much favor, and is still widely in use. In this dictionary the divisions represent the divisions of pronunciation. They were determined partly by physiological laws of motion to produce the proper sounds, partly by movement of purpose to bring out the thought.

The short vowel sounds are characterized by their close combination with following consonant sounds.

The accented syllable attracts the adjacent consonants.

These are physiological laws which largely determine the division of words. But there are frequent combinations of letters in which more than one division may be made that will equally give the correct sounds and observe the physiological laws. In such cases the division chosen is one that will exhibit the significant parts of the word most plainly. This method of division has been most freely used in the technical terms in that work. These terms are in fact different from colloquial speech in being primarily written words. Their inventors do not think about their pronunciation. Many of them are never pronounced.

The Standard divides *active* and *defective* on the *t*, thus: *act'ive, de-fect'ive,* because pronunciation and etymology agree. For the same reason it has *af-firm'a-tive, form'al, less'en,* and *mass'ive.*

The Standard Dictionary gives *de-struc'tive, cor'mo-rant, fir'ma-ment, les'son,* and *pas'sive,* to represent the correct pronunciation of these words and in conformity with the law for the use of consonants. There is no well-known root *de-struct'*, no foundation word *firm'a-ment,* no *corm'o-rant,* no *less'on* or *pass'ive* to require that etymology join hands with pronunciation.

The Standard has *ex-press'ive* and *pro-gress'ive,* because *ex-press* and *pro-gress* are common words. It divides *ex-pen'sive, de-fen'sive,* and other words in silent *e,* preceded by *ns,* on the *n,* because so pronounced and the spelling is changed by the omission of the silent *e.* The accent in *form'a-tive* and *for-ma'tion* causes a different

pronunciation and consequently a different syllabication. The same may be said of the contrast in *serv'ile* and *servil'i-ty*. In the division into syllables of the words *armor, harbor, normal*, the Standard adheres to its rule of correct pronunciation. It divides on a long accented vowel and throws the consonants to the following syllable, while it joins a short vowel to following consonant, when this can be done without misrepresenting the pronunciation. In the words *eastern, master*, etc., the *st* of *east* is by etymology and pronunciation joined to *ea;* therefore, *east'ern. Mas'ter* is one who rules, *mast'er* is a vessel with a certain number of masts, so divided by etymology, and this division does not misrepresent the pronunciation. The Standard sanctions such divisions as *practi-cal, politic-al*, because words ending in *-ic*, as *me-chan'ic, po-lit'ic*, etc., where the *accent does not change*, take *-al*, and the termination becomes *ic-al*, while words ending in *-ical* that are not formed from *-ical* are divided *i-cal*, as *practi-cal*, etc.

RULES FOR THE DIVISION OF WORDS

The following rules may serve as guides to the method introduced in the NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY, in 1913, but amplified, and now commonly used in dividing English words.

The Prefixes

1. Prefixes, such as *ab-, ad-, ante-, anti-, auto-, bi-, co-, com-, de-, demi-, di-, dis-, em-, en-, equi-, im-, in-, mis-, multi-, out-, per-, pre-, pro-, re-, sub-, super-, trans-, un-*, are usually separated from the parent word, as in *ab-ject, ad-mire, ante-cedent, anti-chamber, auto-mobile, bi-sect, co-operate, com-mensurate, de-press, demi-god, di-late, dis-locate, em-brace, em-power, en-close, en-fold, equi-valent, im-press, in-different, mis-deed, multi-form, out-burst, out-cast, out-side, per-ennial, per-fect, pre-amble, pre-cipitate, pre-cocious, pro-digal, pro-log, re-peat, re-pose, re-surrection, sub-acid, sub-divide, sub-marine, super-natural, super-pose, trans-fer, trans-mit, un-born, un-avoidable*, etc.

The Suffixes

2. Suffixes, such as *-able, -ant, -ent, -ed, -er, -est, -eth, -ible, -ing, -ish, -ist, -ize* (*-ise*), etc., are usually separated from the parent word, as in *charit-able, cap-able, assist-ant, eleg-ant, inf-ant, ten-ant, absorb-ent, presid-ent, provid-ent,*

prud-ent, beard-ed, round-ed, bick-er, clamb-er, flick-er, dear-est, full-est, hard-est, soon-est, lay-eth, say-eth, ed-ible, forc-ible, bind-ing, clear-ing, feel-ing, reckon-ing, clown-ish, fool-ish, anatom-ist, pian-ist, public-ist, pugil-ist, apolog-ize, catech-ize, civil-ize, critic-ize. See -ISE, -IZE (page 9).

EXCEPTIONS: *horned, pressed, ruined.*

3. When a **suffix** or an attached syllable requires that the final consonant of the stem be doubled, the doubled letter is added to the suffix, as *allot, allot-ting; confer, confer-rable; glad, glad-den; rob, rob-ber.*

The Vowels

4. When two **vowels** that come together are sounded separately, each belongs to a different syllable; for instance, *abey-ance, a-eroplane, a-orist, ba-obab* (a Central African tree), *buoy-ancy, cow-ard, cow-er, coy-ote, di-al, ortho-epy, sci-ence.*

5. When two **vowel letters** form a diphthong, as *ai* in "aisle," *ei* in "either," *oi* in "oil," *ou* in "out," or two, or more than two letters, make a digraph or trigraph, as *ck* in "sick," *ea* in "each," *eau* in "beau," *gh* in "cough," *gn* in "consign," *ng* in "bring," *ph* in "physic," *sch* in "schedule," *sci* in "science," *sh* in "ash," *ss* in "caress," *th* in "thin," they are considered as single vowels or consonants, as the case may be, and are not separable.

6. When the preceding **vowel** is short and accented it attracts the adjacent consonant, as in *admon'ish, hab'it, hab-it'ual; proph'et, prophet'ic; wom'an.*

7. An unaccented short **vowel** attracts the following consonant, as in *ab-ductor, dis-arm, en-amor, im-agine.* See THE PREFIXES, p. 19.

8. Unaccented or short or obscure **vowels** in an unaccented syllable of a root-word usually attract the consonant that follows, as in *confection-ary, custom-ary, diction-ary, vision-ary.*

9. An accented long **vowel** attracts the following consonant, as in *al'der, al'derman; mak'er.*

The Consonants

10. A **consonant, digraph,** or **trigraph,** occurring between two vowels, is attracted by the later syllable when the first vowel is long, one-half long, or obscure,

except in *beau'ti-ful, ca-pac'i-ty, fa'tal, fa'ther, fa'vor, fed'-er-al, pe-cu'liar, pro'gram, rea'son, sea'son, sed'a-tive, sep'a-rate.*

11. Two or more **consonants** coming together, beginning a syllable, and occurring between two sounded vowels, are joined to the second vowel (1) when the first is long and accented or when capable of use to end an unaccented syllable; as, *a'blest, au'thor, bu'gler, con'tract, cy'clone, di'graph, ha'tred, ker'chief, neu'tral, fee'ble, peo'ple, psy'chic, trem'bling,* etc.; or, (2) when the second vowel occurs in an accented syllable; as, *a-cros'tic, a-sleep', a-stride', a-thwart', be-strew', be-stride', de-scend', de-scrib'ing, de-scrip'tion, hy-drau'lic, re-proof', re-spect',* etc.

12. When two or more **consonants** come together between two vowel-sounds, one of the consonants is attracted to the accented syllable, whether the vowel be short or long; as, *ab-rupt', ab-sorb', ag'nate, al'ba-tross, ar'chi-tect, at'las, can'did, es-pe'cial, es-teem', mag'net, om-nis'cience, res'cue,* etc.

13. When two or more **consonants**, that can not begin a syllable when used together, occur between two sounded vowels, they are separable, and one or two of them join the first vowel, be it long or short, as in *an'cient, an'gel, ar'chi-tec"ture, buck'le, bur'glar, cam'bric, con"ver-sa'tion, dis-ci'ple, dis-claim', whis'tle,* etc.

EXCEPTIONS: When the spelling and accentuation of the parent or root-word is retained and the meaning is a derived one, the rule does not hold; as in *art, art'ist; bank, bank'er; Celt, Celt'ic; dance, danc'ing; fish, fish'ery,* etc. For further exemplification, see under L and LL.

14. When the **consonantal digraphs** *sc, sp,* and *st,* and the trigraph *str* occur preceding or following an accented syllable, they are separated, as in *sus-cep'tible, aus-pi'cious, cus'pi-dor, sus-pect', cas'tle,* (but not *cast'er*), *mas'ter, oys'ter, pas'time, aus'tral.*

15. The **consonantal digraph** *st* is inseparable in certain dissyllabic words, as *blast-ed, boast-ed, coast-ing, east-ern, fast-ing, feast-ed, post-ed,* etc.

16. Some **consonants**, as *c, ç, d, g, s, sc, t* and *z*, do not end syllables because the vowels, or combinations of vowels, with which they are inseparably associated produce the sounds of *ch, j, sh,* or *zh.* For example, sibilant *c*

as in *inwin'cible* and "soft" *g* as in *exi-gencies, spe'cious, sol'dier, conta'gious, spe'cial, con'scious, injudi'cious, condi'tion, gla'zier.* But the exceptions are numerous, as when the letters occur before a true suffix, as *-ed, -er,* and *-ing,* as in *fast, fast-ed; charge, charg-er; cage, cag-ing;* or, when without another consonant following a short accented vowel, as in *dig'it, log'ic, mag'ic,* or when occurring in *dg,* as in *ac-knowl'edg-ment* and *judg'ment.* The derivatives of the word *right* are also exceptions:—*right'eous, right'eously, right'eousness; right'ful, right'fully, right'fulness.*

17. When the **consonants** *d, s, t, z,* are so influenced by *u* as to produce the sounds *ch, j, sh* or *zh* they do not end a syllable. EXAMPLES: *proce'dure, sen'sual, fea'ture, sei'zure, su'ture, ver'dure.* When a preceding short vowel is accented it attracts the consonant modified, as in *az'ure, cas'ual, congrat'ulate, ed'ucate, nat'ural, pleas'ure.* EXCEPTION: *fraud'u-lent.*

18. The **consonants** that do not begin a syllable are (1) *r* when it follows *a* or *e,* as in *bare, bar'er, bar'est; bear, bear'er; care, car'ing; fare, far'ing; fear, fear'ing, fear'ful; aver'age; bev'er-age; gen-er'al,* etc. (2) *x* when it is pronounced *ks* or *gz,* as in *anx'ious, com-plex'ion, ex-am'i-na'tion, ex-am'ple.*

19. When *l, n,* or *v* are followed by *i,* sounded as consonantal *y,* they do not, *according to Webster,* begin a syllable, but according to the New Standard Dictionary they do. See *a'lien, fo'lio, con-ve'nient, pe-cu'liar, be-ha'vior,* etc.

20. **Compound words** are divided into syllables even as the words of which they are formed are divided, as *air-way, all-spice, awe-struck, back-bone, blue-bon-net, book-bind-er, book-sel-ler,* etc.

21. **The final consonants** are *b, d, f, g, l, m, n, p, r, t, z,* as the following words will serve to illustrate: *abb, ebb; add, odd; biff, bluff, buff; egg; ball, cell, sill, boll, bull; Finn, inn, jinn; Lapp; err, burr, purr; sett, bitt, butt; buzz, fizz, jazz.*

SPELLING TESTS

In the following paragraphs a great variety of words frequently misspelled are provided for use in testing ability to spell correctly.

(1) A desiccated disappointed physicist was peeling potatoes in an embarrassing and harassing way. His idiosyncrasy and privilege was to eat mayonnaise and mussels while staring at the Pleiades and seizing tricycles and velocipedes. He was an erring teetotaller on a picayune jamboree. He rode a palfrey stallion, attended by a pedler, and carried a salable papier-maché bouquet of asters, phlox, mullein, chrysanthemums, rhododendrons, fuchsias, and nasturtiums.

He wore a sibyl's resplendent turquoise paraphernalia, an ormolu yashmak and astrakhan chaparejos. He drank crystallizable and disagreeable curaçoa juleps through a sieve. He stole moneys and hid them in the mattress of a mahogany bedstead.

Like a fiend in an ecstasy of gaiety, I rushed into the maelstrom after him and participating in the fracas held him as in a vise during the mêlée. I could not feaze him, however, and he addressed me, autocratically, in the following imbecile words which sounded like a soliloquy or a superseding pæan on an oboe:

"You are a ratable luna-moth, a salaaming vizier, an equinoctial coryphée and an isosceles daguerreotype. Avaunt with your orthographical conundrum!"

(2) "Satire and sophistry are the patron and matron of tergiversation: all the machinations of the Panjandrum were superfluous and exhibited a specimen of Anglophilic obstinacy apparently designed to intimidate labor that national industry, capitalized by the aristocracy, might flourish, and mercantile products be benefited by the profiteers' outrageous inflation of prices.

"He was wounded by the formidable implements of ceremony, and feared the contiguous chasm into which he had been inveigled or intrigued might lead him to the cerements of the crematorium and through the necropolis to his sepulcher.

"The medicine prescribed for the ophthalmia and typhus rendered him paralytic, and the lamentable news from Athens proscribing both elecampane and heroin made the matter very ludicrous.

"The horizon of hereditary anticipation was towards Przasnysz and an acceptable respite from the gyascutus was sufficiently opportune to render him accessory to cognizance. Finally, to give accuracy to the exaggerated account of his obstreperous behavior, he sold his demense rather than say 'apostrophe' or spell 'diphthong'."

(3) "He was attached to literature and ethics, and by means of an advertisement he entered into a controversy with a Highlander concerning his plaid and pronunciation; and, in the altitude of his choler and the height of his enthusiasm, denominated him a plagiarist, a pedant, and a miscreant; he said that his plagiarism, although extempore, was irrelevant, and was obtained from the economical fabric of his legends, through the presages of which he apparently construed his inherent and aerial traits of absurdity."

(4) "Isolated and impotent in the hands of such executors, the thoughts of Mnemosyne were alienated from the momentous and exemplary premises of mnemonics to desultory, despicable, and arbitrary considerations. Her finances were expended on venison, cresses, prunes, fuchsias, phthalein and geraniums: her ipse dixit upon monarchical and typographical subjects was specific and incontrovertible. It was perceptible that the concomitants had produced a mischievous, indisputable, extraordinary and irreparable effect: she was inexorable to courtesy, and environed as she was by fantasmagoria, she succumbed in the sanitarium to the machinations of riming satirists, and to the flagrant orisons of her prompters, while the cheiropter flew at the spondylotherapist for arguing with the chiropodist.

WORDS WE MISSPELL

VOCABULARY

A

a. In English the sounds of the letter *a* are as in "all," "artistic," "art," "fat," "fare," "ale," "ask," "any," "swan," "about," "sofa," etc. In England the letter *a*, as in "fat," is pronounced as if it were a diphthong consisting of *a* and *e*. In some mouths this sound becomes a drawl which approximates to the sound of *e* as in "eight," prolonged. In the eastern United States and in Canada the drawl, or dawdle—for it is little else—does not appear, the letter being given the short sharp sound that is heard in *at, bat, cat, fat, hat,* etc. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

In English the sound of *a* in "all," "law," is indicated in spelling also by *o* as in "lord," by *au*, as in "fault," by *al* as in "fall," and by *aw*, as in "awl." The sound of *a* in "art" is indicated also by *ea* as in "heart," *au* as in "aunt," and *ua* as in "guard"; that of *a* as in "fat" is indicated also by *ai* as in "plaid," and *ua* in "guaranty"; that of *a* as in "fare" is indicated also by *ai* as in "air," *ea* as in "pear," *ei* as in "their," and *er* as in "erc"; that of *a* as in "ale" is indicated by *ai* as in "ail," *ao* as in "gaol," *ay* as in "aye," *ea* as in "great," *ei* as in "eight," *ey* as in "they," and that of *a* as in "what" by *o* as in "not." See INTRODUCTION.

ab-bre'vi-ate, derived from the Latin *ab-* and *brevis*, is correctly spelt with two *b's;* not, as commonly pronounced *a-bre'vi-ate.*

A'bel (a man's name), distinguish from **a'ble** (powerful, competent).

a-bet' *doubles* the final *t* when followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel (as, *-ed, -er, -ing, -or*): **a-bet'ted,** not *abeted;* **a-bet'ter,** not *abeter;* **a-bet'-ting, not** *abeting;* **a-bet'tor,** not *abetor.*

ab-hor' *doubles* the final *r* on taking a suffix beginning with a vowel: **ab-hor'rence, ab-hor'rent,** not *abhorence, abhorent.*

-able. A suffix used to form adjectives; as, change*able*, honor*able*, lov*able*, etc. See -ABLE and -IBLE, p. 5.

None of the three letters a, j, q is ever followed by either *-able* or *-ible.*

-ible is always preceded by one of the following letters: c, d, g, l, n, r, s, t, x.

With the exception of the a, j, q above noted, *-able* may follow any letter of the alphabet.

Each of the fourteen letters, b, e, f, h, i, k, m, o, p, u, v, w, y, z, is always followed by *-able.* Examples: Curb-*able*, peace-*able*, aff-*able*, wash-*able*, reli-*able*, attack-*able*, form-*able*, help-*able*, lasso-*able*, valu-*able*, lov-*able*, allow-*able*, enjoy-*able*, civiliz-*able.*

My deductions refer only to *-able* and *-ible* as derivational entities, and not to cases in which the alphabetic sequences are inbuilt parts of the word, as in *cable, fable, gable, Bible, foible.*

JACOB BACKES in *The Sun*, New York, Oct. 14, 1917.

ab"o-li'tion (the act of abolishing), distinguish from **eb"ul-li'tion** (an outburst).

a-bridge' *drops* the final *e* in the noun **a-bridg'ment,** not *abridgement.*

ab'scess. Note that the *c* is silent. See SC.

a-cad'e-my, not *acadamy, accademy* or *acaddemy.*

ac-cede', not *acceed.*

ac-ce'dence (agreement), distinguish from **ac'ci-dence** (mishap; also, rudiments of grammar).

ac-cel'er-ate, not *acelerate.*

ac-cel'er-a"tor, not *acelerator.*

ac-cept' (to receive), distinguish from **ex-cept'** (to leave out).

ac-cept'a-ble, not *acceptible.* See -ABLE, p. 5.

ac-cep'tances, not *acceptancies,* which is the plural of **ac-cep'tan-cy,** a form now rarely used.

ac-cep'tor, not *accepter.*

ac'cess (approach; passage), distinguish from **ex-cess'** (surplus; overplus).

accessable. Misspelling of **ac-ces'si-ble.**

ac-ces'sa-ry (aiding subordinately), distinguish from **ac-ces'so-ry** (a person not present, who is concerned in a felony).

Etymologically, **accessary** seems to be the proper substantive form to represent the *person*, but it has become in all cases practically interchangeable with **accessory,** *a. & n.*, and the latter now seems to be rapidly supplanting it in both common and legal usage. WHARTON *Precedents* favors *-ary*, but the *Encyc. Brit.* and the *International, New American,* and *Globe Encyclopedias,* BLACKSTONE, and COOLEY *Notes on Blackstone,* ABBOTTS *Law Dict.*, and the court decisions

generally, use *-ory*, most of them exclusively and the rest prevailingly. In the *U. S. Statutes at Large*, *-ary* is used in the text (179) and again in the *P. O. Laws* (1825); but *-ory* is used in the index and marginal notes showing the later tendency to the use of *-ory*.

ac-ces'si-ble, not *accessable*. See -IBLE, p. 9.

ac'ci-dence (rudiments of grammar), distinguish from **ac'ci-dents** (mishaps). Compare ACCEDE.

ac'ci-dent, not *accedent*. Compare ACCEDE.

ac"ci-den'tal-ly, not *accidently*.

ac-cli'mate, not *aclimate*.

ac"co-lade, not *accolaid*.

ac-com'mo-date, not *accomodate*.

ac-cou'ter, **ac-cou'tre**, not *acouter*. The first is preferred in the United States; the second is used in Great Britain.

a-cross', not *accross*.

ac-crued', not *accrude*.

ac-cru'ing, not *accrueing*.

ac-cu"mu-la'tion, not *accummelation*.

accur: Misspelling of **oc-cur'**.

ache. Originally spelt *ake* and pronounced as if so spelt to-day. Note that here *ch* has the sound of *k*, not that of *tsch* as in *church*.

a-chieve', not *acheive*.

ac-knowl'edge *drops* final *e* in the present participle and verbal noun **ac-knowl'edg-ing**, and in the noun **ac-knowl'edg-ment**.

ac-knowl'edge-a-ble, not *acknowledgable*. See -ABLE, p. 5.

a-cous'tics, not *accoustics*.

acquatic. Misspelling of ***a-quat'ic***.

ac-quit' *doubles* the final *t* when followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel: **ac-quit'tal**, not *acquital;* **ac-quit'ted**, not *acquited;* **ac-quit'ting**, not *acquiting*.

a'cre, not *aker*, which is the original, now obsolete, form. A. S. *æcer*.

acts (deeds), distinguish from **ax** or **axe** (an edge-tool for chopping).

ad'age, not *adige*.

a-dapt'er, not *adaptor*. See -ER, p. 8.

ad-dress'. Note the two *d's*—not *a-dress'*.

adds (joins to), distinguish from **adz** (a tool).

ad-duce' *retains* final *e* before *-able* suffix, but *drops* it before *-ible*, suffix; as, **ad-duce'a-ble**, **ad-du'ci-ble**.

ad-here', not *adhear*.

ad-her'ence (attachment), distinguish from **ad-her'ents** (followers). See -ENCE, p. 8.

ad-ja'cent. Note the *d* in this word which is retained altho not heard in modern pronunciation.

ad-journ'. Note the *d* in this word: not *ajourn.* See ADJACENT.

ad-judge'. Note the *d* in the first syllable which is retained altho not heard when the word is pronounced. Not *ajudge.* See ADJOURN.

ad-mis'si-ble, not *admissable.* See -IBLE, p. 9

ad"o-les'cence, not *adolescense.* Compare LICENSE.

ad va-lo'rem, not *ad valorum.*

ad-vance', not *advanse.* This word *retains* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant; as, **ad-vance'ment.** The *e* is retained before *-able;* as in **ad-vance'a-ble** but dropped before *-ing* and *-ive;* as in **ad-van'cing, ad-van'cive** or **-sive.** See -ABLE, p. 5, and -IVE, p. 10.

ad-van'tage, not *advantedge* or *advantidge.* This word *retains* final *e* in the adjectives **ad-van'tage-a-ble** and **ad"van-ta'geous** but omits it before *-ing* in **ad-van'tag-ing.**

ad-vert', not *advurt.*

ad-ver'tence, not *advertance.* See -ENCE, p. 8.

ad'ver-tise, not *advertize.* The final syllable takes an *s* not a *z.* The final *e* of this word is *dropped* before any suffix beginning with a vowel; as, **ad'ver-tised', ad'ver-tis"ing.**

ad-ver'tise-ment, not *advertisment* or *advertizement.*

ad'ver-tis"er, not *advertizer.*

ad-vice' (counsel), distinguish from **ad-vise'** (to counsel).

ad-vis'a-ble, not *adviseable,* or *advizable.* See -ABLE, p. 5.

ad-vis'er, not *advisor.*

ad-vi'so-ry, not *advisery.*

ad'y-tum, not *additum.*

æ'gis. Classic form of **e'gis.** Both spellings are in use.

Æ-o'li-an, not *Aolian.*

æ'on. Classic form of EON.

a-e'ri-al, not *aireal.* Correctly pronounced as if written *ay-ee'ri-al.*

a'er-o-naut, not *aironaut.*

a'er-o-plane, not *airoplane* as frequently mispronounced.

æs-thet'ic. Classic form of **es-thet'ic.** Both spellings are in use.

af'fa-ble (courteous), distinguish from **ef'fa-ble** (utterable). See -ABLE, p. 5.
af-fair', not *afair*, *afare* or *affare*.
af-fect' (influence), distinguish from **ef-fect'** (result).
af"fi-da'vit, not *afidavit*.
af-fran'chise, not *affranchize*.
a-gen'da, not *ajenda*.
ag'gran-dize, not *agrandise*.
ag-grieve', not *aggreive* or *agrieve*.
ag'i-o-tage, not *ajiotage*.
ag'o-nize, not *agonise*.
a-gree' *retains* the final *e* when followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **a-gree'a-ble** (not *agreable*), **a-gree"a-bil'i-ty**, **a-gree'a-ble-ness**, etc. It retains it also before *-ment*, as in **a-gree'ment**.
Ah'ri-man, not *Ariman*.
aide'-de-camp". The first word ends with a final *e;* not *aid-de-camp*. The plural is formed by adding *s* to it —**aides-de-camp**—not to the word *camp*.
ai'gret, **ai'grette** (a tuft of feathers), distinguish from **e'gret** (a bird, the heron).
ail (to feel pain), distinguish from **ale** (a beverage).
air (the atmosphere), distinguish from **heir** (one who inherits), and from **Ayr** (a town in Scotland).
aisle (a passage, as in a church), distinguish from **isle** (an island).
ait (a small island in a river), distinguish from **eight** (a number).
al-. See ALL.
al'ba-tros or **al'ba-tross**, both forms are in use, but the second is preferred.
al-bu'men (white of egg), distinguish from **al-bu'min** (viscous substance).
al'co-hol, not *alchool*.
Al-gon'ki-an is preferred to **Al-gon'qui-an**, but both are used.
a'lien, not *alein*.
aline, commonly misspelled *align*. As *line* is the English spelling of the French *ligne* the form *aline* is the correct English rendering of the French *aligner*.
a-line'ment, not *alignment*, a form derived from a misspelling of the French *alignement*. See ALINE.
all, when used in combination with *-most*, *-ready*, *-right*,

-so and *-ways* usually *drops* final *l*, but see ALMOST, ALREADY, etc., below.

all (whole), distinguish from **awl** (a boring-tool).

al-lay (relieve, soothe), distinguish from **al'ley** (a narrow passage).

Al'le-ga″ny (a county in N. Y.), distinguish from **Al'le-gha″ny** (mountains) and **Al'le-ghe″ny** (a county in Pa.).

al″le-ga'tion (an assertion), distinguish from **al″li-ga'tion** (a tying together, or a rule in arithmetic).

al-lege', not *alledge*. This word drops final *e* before the participial endings *-ed* and *-ing*, and the suffix *-ation*, but retains it before *-able*, as in **al-leged'**, **al-leg'ing**, **al″le-ga'tion**, **al-lege'a-ble**.

al-leg'er, not *alledger*.

al-le'giance, not *allegeance*. Compare VENGEANCE.

al'ley (a narrow passage), distinguish from **al-ly'** (one associate with another to assist) which is frequently mispronounced.

al″li-ga'tion. Distinguish from ALLEGATION.

allmanac. Misspelling of **al'ma-nac**.

al-lot' *doubles* the *t* in the participles **al-lot'ted**, **al-lot'ting**, but not before *-ment*, suffix: **allot'ment**.

allready. Misspelling of ALREADY.

all right. The commonly preferred form of ALRIGHT.

al-lude' (to refer to), distinguish from **e-lude'** (to avoid), and **il-lude'** (to deceive).

al-lu'sion (a reference), distinguish from **il-lu'sion** (unreal image).

all ways (in every manner), distinguish from **al'ways** (ceaselessly, regularly).

al-ly' *changes* final *y* to *i* in the formation of the plural **al-lies'**.

al'ma-nac, not *allmanac*, *almanach* or *almanack*.

al'most, always one word, never *all most*.

alms (relief, charity), distinguish fomr **arms** (upper limbs of the human body; weapons of offense).

a'loud (in audible voice), distinguish from **al-lowed** (permitted).

al'pha-bet, not *alphebet*.

al-read'y (even now; by this time), distinguish from **all ready** (everything prepared for use or action).

al'right, the original spelling of the word (A-S., *alriht*)

which does not follow the analogy of *almost, already, also,* but is commonly written *all right.* See ALL RIGHT.

al'so (besides; as well), distinguish from **all so** (every one in the same degree).

al'tar (place of worship), distinguish from **al'ter** (to change).

alter'nate (reciprocal), is spelt in the same way as **al'ternate** (perform successively), but pronounced differently.

al'ter-na″tor, not *alternater.* See -OR, p. 11.

al-tho'. A contraction of **al-though'** now in wide use.

al″to-geth'er (wholly; entirely), distinguished from **all together** (unitedly as a body; in unison).

a-lu'mi-num. Between the forms *aluminum* and *aluminium,* there is great diversity of usage, but *aluminum* appears to be the form now preferred by manufacturers and chemists. The spelling followed by the United States Dispensatory and the United States Pharmacopœia is *aluminum.*

al'ways (perpetually; ceaselessly), distinguish from **all ways** (every way or manner).

a-mal'ga-mate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **a-mal'ga-mat″ed, a-mal″ga-mat'ing.**

a-man″u-en'sis (*sing.*) forms its plural by changing *i* of the final syllable into *e*—**a-man″u-en'ses** (*plur.*).

a-mass' *retains* final *s* before the suffixes *-able, -er, -ment.*

a-mass'a-ble, not *amassible.*

am″a-teur', not *amature.* Compare ARMATURE.

am-bas'sa-dor, not *ambassader.*

am-bi'tion, not *ambishon.*

a-merce'ment (a penalty), not *amersement.* Distinguish from **im-merse'ment** (act of immersing).

a-mid' (in the midst of), distinguish from **am'id** (chemical salt).

am'me-ter, not *ameter.*

am″mu-ni'tion, not *amunition.*

a-mong' *preferred* to **amongst** in the United States, but the latter has wide vogue in Great Britain.

a-mor'tize, sometimes also **a-mor'tise,** but not *amortice.* This word *drops* final *e* before *-able,* and *-ation* but *retains* it before *-ment:* **a-mor'tiz-a-ble, a-mor″ti-za'tion, a-mor'tize-ment.**

a-mo'tion (removal from office), distinguish from **e-mo'tion** (sentiment).
am-per'age, not *ampereage*, or *ampierage*.
am-pere', not *ampeer*, or *ampier*.
am-phis'cians, not *amfishians*. See PH.
a-muse', not *amuze*. This word *drops* its final vowel before *-able* and *-er*, and in the participles, as in **a-mus'a-ble, a-mus'er, a-mused, a-mus'ing**, but *retains* it, before *-ment*—**a-muse'ment**.
a-nal'y-sis, not *annalysis*. This word forms its plural by changing *i* of the final syllable into *e*—**a-nal'y-ses** (*plur.*).
an'a-lyst (one who analyzes), distinguish from **an'nal-ist** (one who writes annals).
an'a-lyze, an'a-lyse. Both spellings are in use, the first predominating in the United States; the second in Great Britain. Not *annalyze*.
an'chor. Distinguish from ANKER.
an'cho-ret, not *ankoret*.
an'cho-rite, not *ankorite*.
an'cient, not *anceint*. See EI, IE, pp. 7-9.
An'gli-cize or **-cise**, not *Anglisize*.
an'ise, not *annis*.
an'i-seed", not *anniseed* or *anise seed*.
an'ker (a liquid measure), distinguish from **an'chor** (an implement for holding a ship).
an'kle, not *ancle*. Compare UNCLE.
an"ky-lo'sis, not *anchylosis*.
an'nal-ist. Distinguish from ANALYST.
annalize. Misspelling of **analyze**.
an-neal', not *aneal*.
an-ni'hi-late, not *anihilate*.
an-noy', not *anoy*.
an-nul *doubles* final *l* before *-able*, *-ed* and *-ing*, but not before *-ment:* **an-nul'la-ble, an-nulled', an-nul'-ling, an-nul'ment**.
an-nun'ci-ate (announce), distinguish from **e-nun'ci-ate** (speak).
a-nom'a-lous, not *anomylous*.
a-non'y-mous, not *anonimous*.
an'swer, not *anser*, altho so pronounced the *w* being silent. The word is from Anglo-Saxon *and*, and *swerian*, swear, which accounts for the presence of the *w*.

ant (an insect), distinguish from **aunt** (a relative).

an'te- (a prefix meaning "before"), distinguish from **an'ti-** (prefix meaning "against").

an"te-bel'lum means, before the war, **an"ti-bel'lum,** means, against (or opposed to) the war, but combines a Greek word (*anti*) with a Latin one (*bellum*).

an"te-ce'dent, not *anticedent.*

an'te-date, not *antidate.*

an"te-di-lu'vi-an, not *antidiluvian.*

an"te-nup'tial, not *antinuptial.*

An'tho-ny, not *Antony.*

an'ti-mo-ny (a metallic element), distinguish carefully from **an-tin'o-my** (self-contradiction in a law).

an"ti-sep-tic, not *anteseptic.*

anx-i'e-ty. Pronounced as if spelt *angziety.*

anx'ious. Pronounced as if spelt *angk'shus.*

Aolian. Misspelling of **Æolian.**

aparatus. Misspelling of **ap"pa-ra'tus.**

a-part'ment, not *apartement.*

ap'er-ture, not *apature.*

apetite. Misspelling of **appetite.**

a'pi-a-ry, not **ap'er-y.** The first is a place where bees (Latin, *apis,* a bee) are kept; the second, a place where apes (A-S., *apa,* ape) are kept.

a-piece', not *apeice.* See EI, IE, pp. 7-9.

ap'ish, not *apeish.*

a"plomb' [Fr.], not *aplom.*

ap'o-gee, not *apojee.*

A-pol'lo, not *Appolo.*

a-pol'o-gize, not *apologise.*

a-pol'o-gy, final *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added, as in **a-pol'o-gies, a-pol'o-gist.**

ap'o-phthegm, now more generally **ap'o-them** (a maxim).

a-pos'til (a marginal note), distinguish from **a-pos'tle** (an evangelist).

a-pos'tro-phize, not *apostrophise.*

a-poth'e-ca-ry, not *apothacary* or *apothicary.*

ap'o-them. Preferred form of APOPHTHEGM.

ap-pal', ap-pall'. Both spellings are in use; the first derived from the French *appalir;* the second, from the Latin *ad,* to, and *palleo,* be pale.

ap"pa-ra'tus, not *aparatus.*

ap-par'el, *v.* The participles of this verb are preferably spelt **ap-par'eled, ap-par'el-ing,** but in British usage an *l* is added to them—**ap-par'elled; ap-par'el-ling.**

ap-par'ent, not *aparent* or *appairent.* See -ENT, p. 8.

ap-peal', not *apeal* or *appeel.*

ap-pear', not *appeer* or *appier.*

ap-pease', not *appeaze.* Before *-able, -ably, -ingly, -ive* the final *e* of the last syllable is *dropped*—**ap-peas'a-ble, ap-peas'a-bly, ap-peas'ing-ly, ap-peas'ive,** but it is retained before *-ment;* as, **ap-pease'ment.**

ap-pel'lant, not *appelant,* **ap-pel'late,** not *appelate,* **ap"pel-la'tion,** not *apalation,* **ap"pel'lee,** not *ap-ellee.* Derived from the Latin *ad,* to (which undergoes a euphonic change to *ap* before *p*), and *pello,* drive, these words should be spelt with two *p's* and two *l's.*

ap-pen"di-ci'tis, not *appendisitis.*

ap-pen'dix (*sing.*). The plural of this word is formed by adding *-es* to the last syllable or by dropping final *x* and adding *-ces:* **ap-pen'di-ces.** See PLURALS OF NOUNS, p. 13.

ap'pe-ti-ble, not *appetable.* See -IBLE, p. 9.

ap'pe-tite, not *apatite* or *apetite.*

ap"pli-qué", not *aplicay.* The past participle is **ap"pli-qué'd',** the present participle **ap"pli-qué'ing.**

ap-ply' *retains* the final *y* in the present participle, **ap-ply'ing,** but *y* changes to *i* in the past participle **ap-plied'.**

Appolo. Misspelling of **A-pol'lo.**

ap-por'tion, not *aportion.*

ap-pose' (place or bring near), distinguish from **op-pose'** (offer resistance to).

ap'po-site (fit, suitable), distinguish from **op'po-site** (contrary).

ap-praise and its derivatives take *s* in the accented syllable and not *z:* as, **ap-prais'a-ble, ap-prais'al, ap-praise'ment, ap-prais-er.**

ap-pre'ci-ate, not *apreciate.*

ap"pre-hen'si-ble, not *apprehensable.* See -IBLE, p. 9.

ap-pren'tice, not *apprentise.*

ap-prise', ap-prize', not *aprise* or *aprize.*

ap-proach', not *aproach.*

ap"ro-pos' [Fr.]. Note the final *s* which is never sounded.

a-quat'ic, not *acquatic.*

aq'ue-duct, not *acqueduct* or *aquaduct.*
a'que-ous, not *aquious.*
ar'bi-trage, not *arbitredge.*
ar'bor, ar'bour. Both spellings are in use; the first, preferred in the United States; the second, in Great Britain. See next.
ar-bo're-al, ar-bo're-ous, ar"bo-res'cent, ar"bor-i-cul'ture. The *u* is *dropped* in the second syllable of these words and their derivatives in both American and British usage. See ARBOR.
ar'bus-cle (a dwarf tree), distinguish from **ar-bus'cule** (a tuft or hair-like growth).
arc (a part of a circle), distinguish from **ark** (a chest, a boat).
arc, *v.* In electrical usage the participles of this verb are formed by adding *-ed* for the past participle, and *-ing* for the present participle, **arced; arc'ing.** See -ED, -ING, p. 7.
arch-. This prefix, when it occurs before *a, i, o,* and sometimes *e* is pronounced *ark,* as in **ar"chæ-ol'o-gy** or **ar"che-ol'o-gy** (pronounced *ar-ke-ol-oji*), **ar-cha'ic** (pronounced *ar-ka'ic*), **arch-an'gel** (pronounced *ark-an'jel*), **ar'chi-tect** (pronounced *ar'ki-tect*), **ar'chive** (pronounced *ar'kive*); but before *b, d,* as in **arch"-bish'op** and **arch"duke,** and in **arch, arched, arch'er** and **arch'ing** it is pronounced *artsh.*
Arc'tic, not *artic.*
ar'dor, ar'dour. Both forms are in use, the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
ar'du-ous, not *ardueous.*
a're-a (extent of surface), distinguish from **a'ri-a** (a melody).
ar'give, not *arjive.*
ar'gon (gaseous element), distinguish from **Ar"gonne'** (wooded battle-ground in France).
Ar"gonne', not *Argon.*
ar'got, not *argo.*
ar'gue *drops* final vowel before *-able, -ed, -er, -ing,* and *-ment:* **ar'gu-a-ble, ar'gued, ar'gu-ing, ar'gu-ment.**
a-rise', not *arize* or *arrise.*
ar"is-toc'ra-cy, *not aristocrasy.*
a-rith'me-tic, not *arithmatic.*
ar'ma-ture, not *armateur.* Compare AMATEUR.
Ar"men"tières', not *Armantières.*
ar'mil-la-ry, not *armillery.*

ar'mor, armour. Both spellings are in use, the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

a-rouse', not *arouze*, or *arrouse*.

ar-raign'. Note the *g* in this word and its derivatives **ar-raigned'**, **ar-raign'ing**, **ar-raign'ment**. Compare DERAIGN.

ar-range', not *arange*. This word *retains* final *e* before *-able*, **ar-range'a-ble.**

ar'rant (notorious), distinguish from **er'rand** (a short trip, as to carry a message) and from **er'rant** (wandering).

ar-ret', not *array*. The word is French and designates an authoritative decree.

ar-rive', not *arive*. Compare ARISE.

ar'ro-gance, not *arogance*.

Ar"tax- erx'es, not *Ar-taksurksez*.

ar'te-ry, not *artary* or *artry*.

ar-te'sian, not *artezian*.

as (1. A Roman coin; 2. For example), distinguish from **ass** (a beast of burden).

as-cen'den-cy *preferred* to **as-cen'dan-cy**, but both are in use.

as-cen'dent *preferred* to **as-cen'dant**, but both are in use.

as-cent (rising or climbing), distinguish from **as-sent** (to agree to).

ash'lar *preferred* to **ash'ler**, the etymological form.

As"nières', not *Anières*. Note that both *s*'s are silent.

as'per-ate (to make rough), distinguish from **as'pi-rate** (to utter with full breath).

as'phalt, not *asfalt*: so also with all its derivatives.

as-sas'sin, not *asassin*.

as-say' (an examination; a test), distinguish from **es-say'** (an attempt).

as-ser'tion, not *assurtion*.

as-sess'ment, not *asessment*.

as-sess'or, not *assesser*.

as-sign'. This word and its derivatives are spelt with a silent *g*—**as"sign-ee'**, **as-sign'ment'**.

As"si-ni-boi'a. A district of Canada.

as-sist'ance (help), distinguish from **as-sist'ants** (helpers). See -ANCE, p. 5.

as-so'ci-ate is pronounced as if spelt *a-so'she-ate*. Its derivative **as-so"ci-a'tion** is pronounced as spelt.

as-suage′, pronounced as a word of two syllables as if spelt **a-swage′**, an obsolete form.

as-sume′ *drops* the *e* before *-able*, *-ed* and *-ing*, as in **as-sum′a-ble, as-sumed′, as-sum′ing.**

as-sump′tion, pronounced as if spelt *a-sump′shon.*

as-sur′ance (not *assurence*), **as-sure′, as-sured′** pronounced as if spelt *shur* in the second syllable.

as-surgent, not *assergent.*

as′ter (a flower), distinguish from **As′tor** (family name).

asth′ma. Note that the *th* in this word is silent as in all its derivatives. It is pronounced as if spelt *azma.*

as′tro-fel, modern spelling of obsolete **astrophel.**

a″sym-met′ric, not *assymmetric.*

as′ym-ptote, the *p* is silent.

a-syn′de-ton, not *asindeton.*

a-syz″y-get′ic—the *g* as in *gem*, not *j.*

At″a-lan′ta (Arcadian princess), distinguish from **At-lan′ta** (capital of Georgia).

ate (imp. tense of EAT, *v.*). Pronounced as if written *et.*

A′te (the goddess of mischief), distinguish from **eigh′ty** (fourscore).

ath″e-næ′um, ath″e-ne′um. Both forms are in use; the first being favored in Great Britain, the second in the United States.

ath′lete, not *athalete.*

ath-let′ics, not *athaletics.*

At-lan′ta. Distinguish from ATALANTA.

at′mos-phere. In this word and its derivatives *ph* is pronounced as *f*, but see PHTHISIS, PHTHALEIN.

a-tro′cious. Note that the *-cious* is pronounced as if spelt *-shus.*

a-troc′i-ty, the *c* here has the sound of *s.*

at″ta″ché′, pronounced *a″ta″shay′*, but spelt as above.

at-tend′ance (service; presence), distinguish from **at-tend′ants** (those attending). See -ANCE, -ANT, pp. 5-6.

at-ten′tion, not *attenshon* or *attenshun.*

at′tic, not *atic* or *attick.*

at-tor′ney, not *atorney* or *atturney.*

au′di-ble, not *audable.*

au′ger (a tool), distinguish from **au′gur** (a soothsayer).

aught (anything), distinguish from **ought** (should).

aunt (relative), distinguish from **ant** (insect).

au'ricle (the external ear), distinguish from **or'acle** (a wise man).

authography. Misspelling of **or-thog'ra-phy.**

au'thor-is"a-ble, au'thor-i-sa'tion, au'thor-ise. British forms of **au'thor-iz"a-ble, au"thor-i-za'tion, au'thor-ize,** preferred in the United States.

au-toch'thon. In this word and its derivatives in *-ic, -ism, -ist, -ous, ch* has the sound of *k.* Not *autocthon.*

au-toc'ra-cy, not **au-toc'rasy** (a spelling used in medicine).

au-tom"a-ton changes *on* to *a* in forming the plural: **au-tom'a-ta.**

au'tumn—the final *n* is silent but not dropped.

aux-il'ia-ry, not *auxilary* or *auxillary.* This word is pronounced as if spelt *og-zil'i-a-ry.*

a-vail', not *avale* or *avayle.*

a-veng'ing, not *avengeing.*

av'er-ag-ing, not *averageing.*

a-ver'sion, not *avursion.*

a'vi-a"tor, not *aviater.*

av"oir-du-pois, not *averdupoise.*

awe *drops* final *e* in the adjective and adverb: **aw'ful, aw'ful-ly.**

awe (reverence), distinguish from **oar** (a paddle), **or** (either), and **ore** (a mineral).

aw'ful (fearful), distinguish from **of'fal** (refuse).

awl (tool), distinguish from **all** (totality).

ax, axe. Both forms are in use, the modern tendency of simplification reverting to the Anglo-Saxon form.

ax'is *changes i* to *e* in forming the plural: **ax'es.**

axle, not *axel.*

ay (an expression of sorrow), distinguish from **aye** (affirmative) and from **eye** (the organ of sight).

az'ure, not *azhure* as pronounced.

B

b: In the spelling of some English words this letter is silent. For example, it is not pronounced when followed by *d,* as in *bdellium* (del'i-um). Final *b,* preceded by *m,* as in *bomb, crumb, dumb, tomb,* etc., is silent except in *rhomb.* It is also silent in certain unphonetic words such as *debt, doubt, subtle,* etc. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

babtize. Misspelling of BAPTIZE.

ba'by forms its plural by changing *y* into *ies*, **ba'bies** (see PLURALS OF NOUNS), but retains final *y* in the nouns **ba'by-hood, ba'by-ism,** and the adjective **ba'by-ish.**

bac"ca-lau're-ate, not *bacchalaureate.*

bac"cha-na'li-a, not *baccanalia.* Note the *h.*

Bac'chus, not *Baccus.* Note the *h.*

bade (ask, request), distinguish from **bad** (evil, wicked).

bag *doubles* the *g* on taking a suffix beginning with a vowel, as *-age, -ed, -ing;* **bag'gage, bagged, bag'ging.**

bag'gy *changes* final *y* to *i* before *-ness:* **bag'gi-ness.**

bail (surety), distinguish from **bale** (a bundle of goods).

bait (an allurement), distinguish from **bate** (strife; contention; also, to blunt, reduce).

baize (a type of cloth), distinguish from **bays** (plural of BAY).

bald (without hair), distinguish from **bawled** (cried out).

bale (a bundle of goods), distinguish from **bail** (surety).

ball (anything round), distinguish from **bawl** (to cry out).

bal'lad (a song), distinguish from **bal'lot** (a secret vote).

bal'let'. Note the *t* which is not heard in pronunciation.

balm (a plant). Note that the *l* is silent (see L), and distinguish from **barn** (yeast). See SILENT LETTERS, pp. 1-2.

balm'y. Note that *l* is silent and that final *y* *changes* to *i* before *-ly* and *-ness:* **balm'i-ly, balm'i-ness.**

ba-nan'a, not *bananna.*

ban-dan'a, ban-dan'na. Both forms are in use, but the second is more frequent and is in harmony with the pronunciation.

ban"deau'. Note the *eau* pronounced *o—bando.* For the plural, add *x* not *s*—**ban"deaux'.**

ban'quet (a feast), distinguish from **ban"quette'** (platform behind an earthwork in fortifications).

bap'tize, bap'tise. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **bap'tized, bap'tiz-ing.**

Bar-ba'dos, not *Barbadoes.*

bar'be-cue or **bar'ba-cue,** not *barbicue.*

bar'bet (a bird; also a type of dog), distinguish from **bar-bette'** (a gun-platform or protective cylinder).

bard (a poet), distinguish from **barred** (marked with bars).

bare (devoid of covering), distinguish from **bear** (an animal; also, to carry).

ba-rege' (dress-goods), not to be confused with **bar'rage** (barrier).

bar'i-tone, a common spelling in belcanto circles, but see BARYTONE.

bark. This word designates the rind of a tree; the call of a dog, and a type of sea-vessel. Compare BARQUE.

barm (yeast), distinguish from **balm** (a plant; also, solace).

bar'na-cle, not *barnicle* or *bernicle*.

bar'on (a nobleman), distinguish from **bar'ren** (unproductive).

barque. A former spelling of BARK (vessel).

bar'rage or **bar"rage'**—altho pronounced in two different ways the spelling is the same.

bar'ra-tor (a shipmaster guilty of barratry) is preferred to **bar'ra-ter**, formerly in vogue, not *barretor*.

bar'ra-trous, not *barratorous*.

bar'ra-try (injury to shipowners by a master), not *barretry*, which see.

bar'red (marked with bars; also, hindered), distinguish from **bard** (a poet).

bar-reled, bar'relled. Both forms are in use, the first being preferred in the United States; the second in Great Britain.

bar'ren (unproductive; unfruitful), distinguish from **bar'on** (a nobleman).

bar're-tor (an inciter of lawsuits), not BARRATOR, which see.

bar're-try (the exciting of lawsuits), not BARRATRY, with which it is commonly confused.

bar'y-tone, the spelling preferred by modern lexicographers, but **bar'i-tone** is also in use.

base' (bottom of anything), distinguish from **bass'** (lowest tone).

ba'si-fy (to change to a base by chemical process), not *baseify*. The *y* changes to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **ba'si-fied.**

ba'sin, not *bason*.

ba'sis (*sing.*), distinguish from **ba'ses** (*plur.*).

bask' (to lie in warmth), distinguish from **basque'** (a woman's garment; also [B-], a language).

bas"-re-lief'—the *s* of the first syllable is silent.

bass (deep tones of a voice or instrument), distinguish from **base** (bottom of anything).

bas-tile', bas-tille'. Both forms are in use.

bate (strife; contention; also, blunt; reduce), distinguish from **bait** (an allurement).

ba-tiste′, not *baptiste.*

bat-tal′i-on, not *batallion.*

bawl (to cry out), distinguish from **ball** (anything round).

bawled (cried aloud), distinguish from **bald** (hairless).

bay (a part of the sea; also, a tree; the call of hounds), distinguish from **bey** (a Turkish officer).

ba-zaar′ (a market; also, a fair, for charity), distinguish from **bi-zarre′** (fantastic; grotesque).

bdel′li-um (gum resin). Note that the *b* is silent.

beach (seashore), distinguish from **beech** (a tree).

bea′con (a directing light), distinguish from **beck′on** (to make signs).

bead, not *beed.*

bea′dle (an officer), distinguish from **bee′tle** (an insect; also, a mallet).

beak, not *beek.*

bean (a vegetable), distinguish from **been** (past participle of the verb *be*).

bear (to carry; also, an animal), distinguish from **bare** (devoid of covering).

beat (to strike), distinguish from **beet** (a vegetable).

beau (*sing.*), **beaux** (*plural*). Pronounced as if spelt *bo.* Compare BEAUTY.

beau (an admirer), distinguish from **bow** (a bent or curved weapon for shooting arrows).

beau′te-ous, not *beautious.*

beau′ti-fy *changes* *y* to *i* before *-ed*—in forming the past participle, **beau′ti-fied**, but *retains* the final *y* in the present participle, **beau′ti-fy″ing.**

beau′ty. Note that final *y* changes to *i* or *e* when a suffix is added; as in **beau′te-ous, beau′ti-ful.**

In some words from the French, as *beauty* and its derivatives, the digraph *ea* that is dropped in pronunciation, is retained in the spelling.

beck′on (to make signs), distinguish from **bea′con** (a directing light).

bed′stead, not *bedsted.*

beech (a tree), distinguish from **beach** (seashore).

beef, not *beaf* or *bief.* In the plural changes the final *f* to *ves* **beeves.** See PLURALS OF NOUNS, p. 14.

been (existed), distinguish from **bin** (a box).

beer (a beverage), distinguish from **bier** (a carriage for the dead).
beet (a vegetable), distinguish from **beat** (to strike).
bee'tle (an insect), distinguish from **bea'dle** (an officer).
beeves (plural of BEEF).
beg *doubles* the *g* when it is followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **begged, beg'ging.**
be-get' *doubles* the *t* when it is followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **be-get'ting, be-got'ten.**
beg'gar, not *begger.*
be-gin' *doubles* the *n* on taking a suffix beginning with a vowel, **be-gin'ner, be-gin'ning.**
be-ha'vior, be-ha'viour. Both forms are in use, the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
be-hoof' (advantage), distinguish from **be-hoove'** (needful).
belle (a beautiful woman), distinguish from **bell** (a hollow metal sounding body).
be-lief' (that which one believes), distinguish from **believe'** (*verb*). Note that in these words the digraph *ie* and NOT *ei* follows the *l*. See RULES, p. 9.
ben'e-fice (a church living), distinguish from **ben'e-fits** (advantages).
be-nef'i-cent, not *benificent.*
ben"e-fi'ci-a-ry. Frequently mispronounced *beni'fishery.*
ben'-e-fit, does not double the *t* before *-ed* or *-ing* in **ben'e-fit-ed, ben'e-fit-ing.**
be-nign', not *benine.* Note the *g* which is silent. Compare ALINE.
Bern, Berne (a town in Switzerland), distinguish from **burn** (a burnt place; also, a brook).
ber'ry (a small fruit), distinguish from **bur'y** (a borough, as in Canter*bury;* also, to put into the ground).
ber'ry, the *y* changes to *i* and *es* is added in the plural, **ber'ries.** See RULES, p. 13.
berth' (place to sleep), distinguish from **birth'** (coming into life).
be-seech' (to entreat), distinguish from **be-siege'** (to lay siege to).
be-set' *takes* an additional *t* before *-ing*: **be-set'ting.**
be-siege', not *beseiged.* See RULES, p. 9.
bet'ter (superior), distinguish from **bet'tor** (one who bets).
bev'er-age, not *beveridge.*

bey (a Turkish officer), distinguish from **bay** (an arm of the sea; also, a laurel-tree).

bi-an'nu-al (occurring twice a year), distinguish from **bi-en'ni-al** (occurring every two years).

bi'ased, bi'assed; bi'as-ing, bi'as-sing. Both forms of these words are in use.

bi'cy-cle, not *bycicle.*

bi-en'ni-al, not *byennial.*

bier (a coffin or hearse), distinguish from **beer** (beverage).

bight (a small bay) distinguish from **bite** (to seize with the teeth).

bin (a box), distinguish from **been** (existed).

birth (coming into life), distinguish from **berth** (a place to sleep).

bis'cuit. Note the last syllable—pronounced *kit.*

bi-sect', not *bissect.*

bis-sex'tile, not *bisextile.*

bis-muth, not *bizmuth.*

bite (to seize with the teeth), distinguish from **bight** (a small bay).

bi-zarre' (grotesque), distinguish from **ba-zaar'** (a fair for charity).

blame *drops* the *e* before *-able, -ed,* and *-ing;* as **blam'a-ble,** not *blameable;* **blamed'**; **blam'ing,** not *blameing.*

blanc''-mange'. Note the *nc* that is dropped in the pronunciation.

-ble (suffix) *drops* final *e* before *-er* and *-ing,* but *retains* it before *-ment.* See -ABLE, -IBLE, p. 5.

bless'ed, distinguish from **blest.** Both forms are used.

blew (past tense of *blow*), distinguish from **blue** (a color).

blond, blonde. Note that the first of these is *masculine* and the second *feminine*—a *blond* man; a *blonde* woman.

blot *doubles* the *t* in **blot'ted, blot'ting.**

blue *drops* the *e* before *-ing* and *-ish*—**blu'ing** and **blu'ish** not *blueing, blueish.*

boa (a serpent), distinguish from **boar** (a male swine), and from **bore** (a hole; also, an annoying person).

board (a plank), distinguish from **bored** (pierced; also, annoyed).

boar'der (one who boards). Note the *a* in this word and distinguish it from **bor'der** (a boundary).

boat (a swimming vessel), distinguish from **bote** (compensation).

bod'ice (the waist of a woman's dress), distinguish from **bod'ies** (plural of BODY).

bold (daring), distinguish from **bowled** (imperfect tense of BOWL).

bold'er (more daring), distinguish from **boul'der** (a large stone).

bole (the trunk of a tree), distinguish from **bowl** (a hollow vessel).

bo'na fi'de. Two words of which each syllable is pronounced—not *bonafied.*

bor'der (a boundary), distinguish from **boar'der** (one who boards).

bore (a hole), distinguish from **boa** (a serpent), and **boar** (a male swine).

bored (annoyed), distinguish from **board** (a plank).

born (come into life), distinguish from **borne** (carried; supported), **bourn** (a limit or boundary), and **bourne** (a stream).

bor'row (obtain as a loan), distinguish from **bur'row** (a rabbit's hole for shelter).

bor'ough (a corporate town), distinguish from **bur'row** (a hole for shelter).

bough (a branch of a tree), distinguish from **bow** (to bend in courtesy).

bought. Note that the trigraph *ugh* is silent.

boul'der (a large stone), distinguish from **bold'er** (more daring).

bound'a-ry, not *boundery*, or *boundry*.

boun'ty. The *y* changes to *e* before *-ous* and to *i* before *-ful*, as in **boun'te-ous, boun'ti-ful.**

bou"quet', not *bookay*, as it is pronounced.

bourn (a limit or boundary), distinguish from **bourne** (a stream), **borne** (carried), and **born** (come into life).

bow[1] (an inclination of the body), distinguish from **bough** (a branch of a tree).

bow[2] (for shooting arrows), distinguish from **beau** (a lover, a dandy).

bowl (a hollow vessel), distinguish from **bole** (the trunk of a tree).

bowled (did bowl), distinguish from **bold** (daring).

boy (a male child), distinguish from **buoy** (a floating mark).

brace (strengthen), distinguish from **braise** or **braize** (to cook).

braid (a flat cord; also, to weave), distinguish from **brayed** (past tense of *bray*).
brake (to stop with a brake; also, a thicket), distinguish from **break** (to split; separate).
brake'man, not *breakman.*
breach' (gap), distinguish from **breech'** (hinder part of a gun, etc.).
bread (an article of food), distinguish from **bred** (reared).
breadth (width), distinguish it from **breath** (respiration).
break. See BRAKE.
breast (the upper front part of the body), distinguish from **Brest** (a French seaport).
breath. See BREADTH.
bred. See BREAD.
breth'ren, not *bretheren,* as commonly misspelled.
brewed (did brew), distinguish from **brood** (cherish; nurse).
brew'ing (making beer), distinguish from **bru'in** (a bear).
brew'is (thick broth), distinguish from **brews** (does *brew*), and **bruise** (contusion).
bric'-a-brac', not *brick-a-brack.*
brid'al (a marriage festival), distinguish from **bri'dle** (a check-rein, a curb).
bridge. Note that the *d* in this word is not heard when the word is pronounced.
brief, not *breif.* See IE, p. 9.
brig"a-dier', not *brigadeir.*
bright. Note *gh* is silent when the word is pronounced. See also other words below.
bright'en (to make bright), distinguish from **Brigh'ton** (a town).
bri"quette', not *bricket.*
Brit'ain (the country), distinguish from **Briton** (a native of the country).
Bri-tan'ni-a, not as commonly misspelled *Brittania.* The correct spelling for the metal is **Britannia metal.**
Brit'i-cism, not *Britticism.*
broach (to give out; to pierce), distinguish from **brooch** (a breast-pin).
broad. Note the digraph *oa* in this word.
Brob"ding-nag'i-an, not *Brobdignagian.*
broc'co-li, not *brocoli.*

bro″ché′ (brocaded), distinguish from **bro″chet′** (a fish). Note that both words are pronounced alike.

bro′ker-age is preferred to **bro′kage,** but both are in use.

bron-chi′tis. Note that in this word, and its derivatives, *ch* is pronounced *k.*

brooch (a breast-pin), distinguish from **broach** (a boring-tool).

brood (cherish, nurse), distinguish from **brewed** (prepared by steeping).

broth′er *changes* its form in the plural to **breth′ren.** See PLURALS OF NOUNS, p. 13.

brough. This combination of letters has several sounds in English which frequently lead to misspelling. Alone it is pronounced *bruf* or *bruch;* in combination *brew,* as in *brougham; bro,* as in *Brougham; brow,* as in *Broughton,* and *braw,* as in *Broughty* Ferry. But all are spelt *brough.*

brows (plural of brow), distinguish from **browse** (to feed on leaves).

bru′in (a bear), distinguish from **brew′ing** (making of beer).

bruise (a contusion), distinguish from **brews** (to form or gather), and **brew′is** (thick broth).

bruit (to noise abroad), distinguish from **brute** (inhuman).

bru′tal-ize, not *brutalise.*

brute. Distinguish from BRUIT.

buck′ram, not *buckrom.*

Bud′dha, not *Bhudda.*

Bue′nos Ai′res, not *Buenos Ayres.*

buf′fa-lo, not *buffaloe* or *buffelo.* To form the plural *es* is added: **buf′fa-loes.**

bug′gy, in the plural the final *y* changes to *i* and *es* is added: **bug′gies.**

buisness. Misspelling of **business.**

bul′le-tin, not *bullettin* or *bulletine.*

bul′lion. Note the two *l's* in the word, which is pronounced as if spelt *bulyon.*

buoy (a floating mark), distinguish from **boy** (a male child).

burn (to consume by fire; also, a brook), distinguish from **Bern** (a Swiss town).

burn′ed, burnt. Both forms are used.

bur'ro (a small donkey), distinguish from **bur'row** (a hole made by a rabbit for shelter).

bur'row (a hole for shelter), distinguish from **bor'ough** (a corporate town).

burst (to break open), distinguish from **bust** (half-length statue).

burst. The past tense of this verb is *burst*, not *bursted* or *bust*, which is a vulgarism. See BUST.

bur'y (to put under the ground), distinguish from **ber'ry** (a small fruit).

bus'i-ness, not *buisness*. Note that this word is a derivative of **bus'y** and that before *-ness* and *-ly* the *y* changes to *i*—**bus'i-ly.**

but (unless, except), distinguish from **butt** (a cask; also, a mark).

buy (to purchase) distinguish from **by** (a preposition), and **bye** (secondary; as, a *bye*-election).

Bzu'ra. Note that this word is not spelt as it is pronounced—*psu'ra.*

C

c: In certain English words this letter has the sound of *k*, before *a*, *o*, *u*, *l*, and *r*, and the sound of *s* before *e*, *i*, *y*, *æ*. Final *c*, as in *music*, is always hard. When combined with *h* the letter *c* has three different sounds: (1) the sound commonly indicated phonetically by the consonantal triphthong *tsh* (and in this book by the diphthong *ch*, heard in *chair*, *child*, *church*, etc.; (2) the sound usually indicated by *sh*, heard in *chaise*, *chevron*, *chicane*, etc.; (3) the sound of *k*, especially in words derived from Gr. as *chalcedony*, *character*, *chiropodist*, etc. In certain other combinations, as *schedule*, *school*, etc., *ch* has the sound of *k* in the United States. Sometimes *ch* is silent as in *schism*, *yacht*. There are also words in which *c*, when preceded by *s* and followed by *ep*, is pronounced as *k*, as in *sceptic*, which nowadays is frequently spelled phonetically, *skeptic;* and other words in which it is silent, as in *scepter*. *C* is silent also in many other words, as in *czar*, *indict*, *muscle*, *scene*, *victuals*, etc. See c, pp. 2, 6.

ca-ca'o (seed of the chocolate-tree), distinguish from **co'coa** (the powder made from the seed of the chocolate-tree). See coco.

cæ-su'ra, ce-su'ra. Both forms are in use.

ca"fé'. In the writing of this word the final *e* should always be accented.

caf'fe-ine, not *caffine.* Always a word of three syllables, but commonly mispronounced as if written *caffeen.*

Cain (a man's name), distinguish from **cane** (a staff, a reed).

cais'son, not *caison* or *cason.*

cal'ci-mine, not *calsomine* or *kalsomine.*

ca'len-dar (an almanac), distinguish from **ca'lender** (a machine for pressing cloth or paper).

calf. Note that the *l* in this word is silent and that in the plural final *f* changes to *ves*—**calves.**

cal'i-ber, not *calliber.*

cal'i-pers, not *callipers.*

calk, caulk. In both these forms the *l* is silent.

calk (to stop a leak in a ship), distinguish from **cork** (a stopper for a bottle).

call (to name, to visit), distinguish from **caul** (a membrane).

cal-lig'ra-phy, not *caligraphy.*

Cal-li'o-pe, not *Caliope.*

cal"lis-then'ics, not *calisthenics.*

cal'lous (hardened), distinguish from **cal'lus** (hardened tissue).

calm, calm-ly, calm-ness. In the pronunciation of these words the *l* is silent.

Cal'va-ry, not *calvery.*

calves. Plural of CALF, not *calfs.*

ca-mel'o-pard, not *cameleopard.*

cam'e-o. The plural is formed by adding *s*, not *es.*

cam'er-a, not *camara.*

cam'o-mile, not *cammomile.*

cam-pagne' (a narrow edging for lace), distinguish from **cam'paign** (a series of military operations). The *g* is silent in both words.

cam"pa-ni'le, not *campanilly.*

Camp'bell. This proper name is not pronounced as it is spelt. The *p*—and sometimes the *b*—is silent and the name is pronounced *kamel* or *kambel.*

cam'phor, not *camfor.*

ca-na'ry, to form the plural change the final *y* to *i* and add *es*; **ca-na'ries.** See RULES, p. 13.

can"cel-a'tion (to strike out), distinguish from **can"cel-la'tion** (a reticulation).

can'celed, can'celled; can'cel-ing, can'cel-ling. Both forms are in use.

can'died (preserved), distinguish from **can'did** (frank).

can'dor, can'dour. Both forms are in use, the first in the United States; the second in Great Britain.

cane (a staff, a reed), distinguish from **Cain** (a man's name).

can'non (a gun), distinguish from **can'on** (a law or rule) and **can'yon** (a ravine).

can"non"eer', can-non-ier'. Both forms are in use.

can not. Properly two words, but commonly written *cannot*, which is incorrect, for *can* is a verb positive. In Old English, the negative form was *ne can*.

can'on-ize, not *cannonize*.

can'ta-loup, not *cantaloupe*.

can'ti-lev"er, not *cantalever*.

can'vas (a kind of cloth), distinguish from **can'vass** (to solicit orders). The participles are written **can'vased** or **can'vassed, can'vas-ing** or **can'vas-sing.**

can'vass-er, not *canvaser*.

can'yon (a ravine), distinguish from **can'on** (a law or rule) and **can'non** (a gun).

cap'i-tal (money invested; chief city in the state; government seat), distinguish from **Cap'i-tol** (the official building of Congress; also, a State house).

cap'tor (one who seizes), distinguish from **cap'ture** (a seizure).

Ca-rac'as (a city, capital of Venezuela), distinguish from **car'cass** (a dead body of an animal).

car'at (a jeweler's weight), distinguish from **ca'ret** (a symbol used to denote an omission) and **car'rot** (a vegetable).

car"a-van'sa-ry, -se-ra, -se-rai, -ser-y. All forms are in use but the first is preferred.

car'bu-ret"er, car'bu-ret"or, car'bu-ret"ter. All forms are in use but the first is preferred.

car'cass, car'case (a dead body of an animal), distinguish from **Ca-rac'as** (a city, capital of Venezuela).

care *retains* the *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant, **care'ful, care'less.**

car'go. The plural is formed by adding *es* not *s*. See RULES, p. 12, §II.

car'oled, car'olled; car'ol-ing, car'ol-ling. Both forms are in use but the first in each case is preferred.

car'ry *retains* the final *y* in the present participle **car'ry-ing**, but the *y* changes to *i* before *-age*, *-ed*, and *-er*: **car'riage**, **car'ried**, **car'ri-er**.

cart (a vehicle), distinguish from **carte** (a bill of fare; also, a position in fencing).

cart'age, not *cartedge* or *cartidge*.

carte blanche, not *cart blank*.

carte'-de-visite', not *cart-de-visit*.

cash-ier, not *cashere*.

cash-mere'. See CASSIMERE.

cask (a barrel), distinguish from **casque** (a helmet).

cason. Misspelling of **cais'son**.

cas'si-mere (a woolen cloth for men's wear), distinguish from **cash'mere** (a woolen dress-fabric for women's wear).

cast (an object made in a mold), distinguish from **caste** (a class, a tribe).

cast'er' (a cruet), distinguish from **cas'tor'** (a beaver).

cas'u-al-ty (a fatal accident), distinguish from **causality** (cause and effect).

cat'a-clasm (a violent disruption or breaking asunder), distinguish from **cat'a-clysm** (an overwhelming flood). The latter term is frequently erroneously used for any sudden overwhelming change.

cat'a-lep-sy, not *catelepsy*.

cat'a-lo. This is a telescope word made from *cat* of "cattle" and *-alo* of "buffalo". Not *catalow* or *cattelo*.

cat'a-log, cat'alogue. Both forms are in use and have been in use side by side since 1500.

cat"a-ma-ran', not *katamaran*, altho Anglicized from the *kattay maray* of the Tamils.

ca-tarrh, not *cattarh*. Note that the final *rh* is not heard in speech. See RH.

ca-tas'tro-phe, not *catastrophy*.

catch (a taking, as of fish), distinguish from **ketch** (a sailing-vessel).

cat'e-chism, not *catachism*.

cat'e-chize, not *catachize*.

cat"e-chu'men. Note that the *chu* of this word is pronounced *ku*. Not *catachumen*.

ca'ter-cor"nered, not *cattacornered* as pronounced.

cat'er-pil"lar, not *catarpiller*.

ca-thol'i-cize, not *catholacise*.

caught. Note that the *ugh* is silent.
caul (a membrane), distinguish from **call** (to name; to visit).
cau'li-flow"er, not *collyflower* or *collieflower.*
cau-sal'i-ty (cause and effect), distinguish from **cas'u-al-ty** (a fatal accident).
cause (a reason), distinguish from **caws** (cries of a crow).
cau'ter-ize *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **cau'ter-ized, cau'ter-iz"ing.**
cav"a-lier' (a knight), not *cavaleer* or *cavelier.* Distinguish from **cav'il-er** (one who objects).
cav'al-ry, not *cav'el-rie.*
cav'il-er (one who objects), not *caviller.* Distinguish from **cav'a-lier** (a horseman).
cease (to stop), distinguish from **seas** (plural of *sea*) and **seize** (to take hold of).
cease *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming participles **ceased, ceasing.**
ceased (stopped), distinguish from **seized (held).**
ce'dar (a tree), distinguish from **ce'der** (one who gives up).
cede (to give up), distinguish from **seed** (to sow; scatter).
ceil (to line the top of a room), distinguish from **seal** (an impression in wax; also, an animal). See EI, p. 7.
ceil'ing, not *cieling.* See EI, p. 7.
cel'er-y (a plant), distinguish from **sal'a-ry** (wages).
cell (a small chamber), distinguish from **sell** (dispose of by sale).
cel'lar (a room underground), distinguish from **sell'er** (one who sells).
cem'e-ter-y (a burial ground), distinguish from **sym'-me-try** (harmony of parts).
cense (to burn incense), distinguish from **sense** (to feel).
cen'ser (incense pan), distinguish from **cen'sor** (official examiner).
cen'sus (an official record), distinguish from **sen'ses** (the five faculties of sensation in man).
cent (a small coin), distinguish from **scent** (an odor), and **sent** (did send).
Cen'taur, not *Centor.*
cen'tau-ry (a plant), distinguish from **cen'tu-ry** (a hundred years).
cen'ten'ni-al, not *centenial.*
cen'ter, cen'tre. Both forms are in use, the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

cen'tral-ize, not *centeralize.*

cen'tu-ry (a hundred years), distinguish from **sen'try** (a guard).

ce'rate (a salve), distinguish from **ser'rate** (saw-like).

cere' (to wax), distinguish from **sear** '(to burn the surface), **seer'** (prophet), **sere'** (dry, withered).

ce're-al (a grain), distinguish from **se'ri-al,** (a connected succession).

cere'ment (a shroud), distinguish from **sere'ment** (an oath).

ce're-ous (waxen), distinguish from **se'ries** (succession), **se'ri-ous** (grave, solemn), and **Sir'i-us** (a star).

cer"ti-o-ra'ri. Note that this is a word of five syllables pronounced as if spelt *sershiorary.*

ces'sion (surrender, assignment), distinguish from **ses'sion** (an organized body or the time of its sitting).

ch: A consonantal digraph which, in English has the following sounds:

(1) *tsh,* as heard in *archbishop, chair, chess, cheese, child, chop, church, etc.*
(2) *sh,* as heard in *chaise, chemise, Chicago.*
(3) *k,* as heard in *archangel, chemist, mechanic, monarch.*
(4) *kw* or *qu,* as heard in *choir.*
(5) *ge* in *spinach* (spinage).

In common spelling *ch* is represented by
(1) *ch,* initial, as in *chance*; final, as in *beech.*
(2) *tch,* medial, as in *satchel, pitcher*; final, as in *batch, ketch, itch, botch.*
(3) *ch* in *lch, nch,* final, as in *filch, lunch,* etc., and commonly pronounced, *lsh, nsh.*
(4) *te,* unaccented, as in *righteous; ti* in *tion,* unaccented as in *question.*
(5) *tu,* unaccented, as in *nature.*

cha-grin' (to humiliate), distinguish from **sha-green'** (rough skin of various fishes).

chaise (a carriage), distinguish from **chase** (to hunt).

chal-ced'o-ny. Pronounced as if spelt *kalsedony.*

chalk. In this word and its derivative **chalk'i-ness, chalk'y,** the *l* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 21.

cham-pagne (an effervescent wine), distinguish from **cham-paign,** (flat or open ground). Compare CAMPAIGN.

cham'per-ty, not *champarty*.

chance (accident), distinguish from **chants** (melodies).

chan'cel-lor, not *chancelor*. See COUNCILOR; COUNSELOR.

chan"de-lier', not *chandalier*.

change *retains* final *e* before *-ability, -able, -ableness, -ful, -fully, -fulness;* as, **change"a-bil'i-ty, change'a-ble,** etc.

chair (a movable seat), distinguish from **chare** (work by the day).

cha'os. Pronounced as if written *kayos*.

chap'er-on, not *chaperone*. Pronounced as if spelt *shaperon*.

char'ac-ter, not *caracter*, its early historic form.

char'ac-ter-ize, char'ac-ter-ise. Both forms are in use; the first prevails in the United States; the second, in Great Britain. See CHARACTER.

charge *retains* the final *e* in the adjective **charge'a-ble.**

char"gé' d'af"faires'. Pronounced as if spelt *sharjay d'affair*.

char'la-tan, not *charletan*.

Cha-ryb'dis. Pronounced as if spelt *Caribdis*.

chase (a hunt), distinguish from **chaise** (a carriage).

chased (ornamented), distinguish from **chaste** (pure).

chasm. In this word *ch* has the sound of *k*. See CH.

chas'sis (*singular*) does not change in the plural **chas'sis** (*plural*).

chaste (pure), distinguish from **chased** (ornamented).

chas-tise', chas-tize'. Both forms are in use but the first predominates.

Cha"teau'-Thier"ry'. A town in France where the United States Army defeated the Germans, June-July, 1918. Note that the *h* in the second element is silent. See H.

Chat"ta-noo'ga, not *Chatanooga*.

chat'tel, not *chatel* or *chattle*. This term, designating movable personal goods, altho derived from the Norman *catel*, later *cattel*, and ultimately *cattle*, is to be distinguished from the last of these, which is now restricted to live-stock.

check, cheque. Both forms are in use. The first is preferred in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

che-nille', not *cheneille*.

cher'ry changes the *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural, **cher'ries.**

chest'nut. Note that in pronunciation the first *t* in the word is silent.

Chev'i-ot, not *Cheeviot* or *Sheviot* as pronounced

chews (does chew), distinguish from **choose** (select).

Chey-enne', not *Shyenne,* as pronounced.

chia"ro-scu'ro. Note that the *chia* is pronounced as one syllable.

chief, not *chief.* Note that to form the plural final *f* is retained and the letter *s* added—**chiefs.** See IE, p. 9.

chief'tain, not *chieftan.*

chif'fon, not *shiffon* altho the *ch* is pronounced as if it were *sh.*

chif"fo-nier', not as pronounced, *sheffoneer.*

chil'blain, not *chillblain* or *chilblane.*

child adds *-ren* to form the plural **chil'dren.** See RULES, p. 13.

Chi'le, not *Chili.*

Chi-me'ra, not as pronounced *Kymeera.*

chim'ney, not *chimny, chimly,* or *chimbly.*

chi-rog'ra-phy, not *cheirography.* Here *ch* is pronounced as *k;* see CH.

chi-rop'o-dist, not *cheiropodist.* Here *ch* is pronounced as *k;* see CH.

chis'eled, chis'elled. Both forms are in use; the first prevails in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

chlo'ral, chlo'rid, chlo'ride, chlo'rin, chlo'ro-form. Note that these words are not spelt as pronounced, *ch* having the sound of *k.*

chock'full", not *chockful.*

choc'o-late, not *chocalate.*

choir (a body of trained singers; formerly, also *quire*); distinguish from **quire** (twentieth part of a ream of paper).

chol'er, pronounced *coller* (anger, wrath): distinguish from **col'lar** (neck-piece).

choose, not *chuse,* altho both forms were used in the Bible of 1611 and by Shakespeare. The latter (*chuse*) is now obsolete.

chord (a harmonious combination of musical tones), distinguish from **cord** (a string).

chose. There are two words of the same spelling but different pronunciations: (1) personal property, pronounced *shoze;* (2) selected, pronounced *tshoze.*

chough (a bird), distinguish from **chuff** (a clown).

Christ, not *Crist*. The *ch* is pronounced as *k* and dates from about 1500. In Middle English this name and its derivatives and allied terms were spelt *Crist*, *Cristen*, *Cristiante*, etc.

chris'ten. Note that *ch* has the sound of *k* and that the *t* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.

Christ'mas. Note that *ch* has the sound of *k* and that the *t* is silent.

chrom-, chroma-, chro-mat'ic, chrome, chro'mi-um, chro'mo-, chron'ic, chro'no-, chron'o-graph, chro-nol'o-gy, chro-nom'e-ter, chrys'-a-lis, chrys-an'the-mum. In all these words initial *ch* is pronounced as *k*. See CH.

chrys-an'the-mum, not *chrysanthemon*.

chrys'o-lite, not *crysolite*.

chute (an inclined trough), distinguish from **shoot** (a young plant).

cieling. Misspelling of **ceiling**.

ci-gar', not *segar*.

cig"a-rette', not *cigaret*, which altho introduced thirty years ago has made very little headway.

ci-li'cious (made of hair), distinguish from **si-li'ceous** (flinty).

Ci'mon (an Athenian general), distinguish from **Si'mon** (the apostle Peter).

Cin"cin-na'ti, not *Cincinnatti*.

cin-cho'na. Not pronounced as it is spelt. The *c* is pronounced *s*, and *ch* pronounced *k*—*sinkona*.

cin'gle (a girth), distinguish from **sin'gle** (alone).

Cin'na (a Roman consul), distinguish from **sin'ner** (an evil-doer).

cin'na-mon, not *cinamon*.

cinque (five), distinguish from **sink** (to fall down).

ci'pher, not *cypher*, an obsolete form.

cir'cum-cise, not *circumcize*.

cite (to quote), distinguish from **sight** (a view) and **site** (a place).

cit'y *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural **cit'ies**.

clack (chatter; babble), distinguish from **claque** (professional applauders used in theaters, etc.).

claim'ant (one who claims), distinguish from **clam'ant** (beseeching).

clam'or, clam'our. Both forms are in use; the first prevailing in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

clan *doubles* the final *n* before a suffix beginning with a vowel—**clan'nish.**

claque. Distinguish from CLACK.

cla"queur', not **clack'er.** See CLACK.

clar'i-fy *changes y* to *i* before *-ed* and *-er;* as in **clar'i-fied, clar'i-fi"er,** but retains the *y* before *-ing* in **clar'i-fy"-ing.**

clas'si-cism, not *classisizm.*

clas'si-cize, not *classisize.*

clause (part of a sentence), distinguish from **claws** (the talons of a bird of prey).

clay *takes ey* to form the adjective **clay'ey.**

clean, not *cleen,* a form used from the 14th to the 17th century.

clean'ly, not *clenly,* as pronounced.

clear'ance, not *clearence.* See -ANCE, p. 5.

clear'sto"ry, clere'sto"ry. Both forms are in use; the first prevailing in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

cleek, cleik (a golf club; also, a clutch), distinguish from **clique** (a faction; also, a gang).

clep"to-ma'ni-a, variant form of **klep"to-ma'ni-a,** which is preferred.

clew. See CLUE.

cli"en-tele', not *clienteel.* In French, **cli"en"tèle'.**

cli-mac'tic (pertaining to a climax), distinguish from **cli-mat'ic** (pertaining to climate).

climb (an ascent), distinguish from **clime** (a region, climate).

close (a lane), distinguish from **clothes** (articles of dress).

cloth (a texture of wool), distinguish from **clothe** (to dress). Compare preceding entry.

clue, not *clew.*

Clew was long the most common spelling, but simple *u* has prevailed after *l* and *r* in pronunciation, and the spelling *clue,* like *blue, true,* etc., is now used for the figurative meanings. In the literal and nautical senses of the word the old form, *clew,* is retained.

clum'sy, not *clumzy.* The *y* changes to *i* before *-ly* and *-ness:* **clum'si-ly, clum'si-ness.**

coal (a mineral), distinguish from **cole** (a variety of cabbage).

coaled (supplied with coal), distinguish from **cold** (not warm).
co"a-lesce', not *coalese.*
coarse (rough). Note that the *a* is silent, and distinguish from **course** (a career; a race), **corse** (a dead body).
coars'er (comparative of **coarse**), distinguish from **cours'er** (a swift horse).
coat (a part of dress), distinguish from **cote** (a sheepfold).
cocks'comb". Note that the *b* is silent. See COXCOMB.
co'co. The tree that produces coco-nuts. Distinguish from CACAO and COCOA.
cod'dling (pampering; also, parboiling), distinguish from **cod'ling** (a young cod; also, a variety of apple).
cod'i-fy. The *y* changes to *i* before *-ed*: **cod'i-fied.**
co-erce, not *coerse;* **co-erc'ing,** not *coersing.*
co-erc'i-ble, co-er'cive, not *coersible, coersive.* See **-IBLE** and **-IVE,** pp. 9, 10.
cof'fer (a strong box), distinguish from **cough'er** (one who coughs).
co-he'sion, not *coheesion.*
coif'feur (a hair-dresser), not *coiffur.*
coif'fure (head-dress or mode of dressing the hair), not *coiffeure.*
coign (a corner), distinguish from **coin** (a piece of money).
co-la'tion (the act of straining), distinguish from **col-la'-tion** (a repast).
cold, not warm, distinguish from **coaled** (supplied with coal).
cole (a cabbage), distinguish from **coal** (a mineral).
col'lar (for the neck), distinguish from **chol'er** (anger, wrath).
col-late, not *colate.*
col-la'tion (a report), distinguish from **co-la'tion** (the act of straining).
col'league. Note that the final *ue* is silent.
Co-lom'bi-a (a Republic in South America), distinguish from **Co-lum'bi-a** (the personification of the United States).
colo'nel (a regimental commander), distinguish from **ker'-nel** (the heart of a nut).
col'or (a hue), distinguish from **cul'ler** (one who selects).
col'ter, coul'ter. Both spellings are in use, the former being preferred.
col'umn. Note the *n,* which is not heard when the word is pronounced. See N and SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.

com'e-dy, not *commedy*.
com'fit (a dry sweetmeat), distinguish from **com'fort** (ease).
com'ing (approaching), distinguish from **cum'in** (a plant).
com'i-ty (civility), distinguish from **com-mit'tee** (a body of managers).
com-mence (begin), distinguish from **com-ments** (observations).
com-mit' *doubles* the final *t* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, **com-mit'tal, com-mit'tee.**
com'mon-al-ty, not *commonality*.
com'mune (*n.*) and **commune'** (*v.*) are spelt the same way but pronounced differently.
com'pass, not *compas*.
com'pass-a-ble, not *compassible*. See -ABLE, p. 5.
com-pat'i-ble, not *compatable*. See -IBLE, p. 9.
com-pel' *doubles* the final *l* before a suffix beginning with a vowel: **com-pel'la-ble, com-pel'led, com-pel'ling.**
com"pel-la'tion (an address or form of address), distinguish from **com"pi-la'tion** (a literary production collected from other writings).
com-pen'di-ous, not *compendeous*.
com'pe-tence, not *competense*. See -ENCE, p. 8.
com'pe-tent, not *compitent*.
com-pet'i-tor, not *competiter*.
com-pla'cence (self-satisfaction), distinguish from **com'-plai-sance"** (politeness). See -ANCE, p. 5, and -ENCE, p. 9.
com-plain', not *complane*.
com'ple-ment (fulness), distinguish from **com'pli-ment'** (praise).
com-plete', not *compleat*.
com-plex'ion, not *complection*.
com-pose', not *compoze*.
com"pre-hen'si-ble, not *comprehensable*. See RULES, p. 9.
com-press'i-ble, not *compressable*. See RULES, p. 9.
com-prise', com-prize'. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred. See RULES, p. 9.
com'pro-mise, not *compromize*. See RULES, p. 9.
comp-trol'ler. A common official spelling based on a false derivation. See CONTROLLER.
con-cede' (to yield to demand), not *conceed*. Distinguish from **con-ceit'** (overweening self-esteem). See RULES, p. 6.

con-ceit', not *conciet*. See EI, p. 7.
con-ceive, not *concieve*. See RULES, p. 7.
con-ceiv'a-ble, not *conceiveable* or *conceivible*.
con'cept, not *consept*.
con'cert (*n.*), **con-cert'** (*v.*), are spelt the same way but pronounced differently.
con'cert (a musical performance), distinguish from **con'sort** (a companion).
con-ces'sion (a grant), distinguish from **con-ses'sion** (a joint session or sitting together).
conch. The *ch* is pronounced as *k* in this word and its derivatives **con'choid, con-choid'al, con-chol'o-gy.** See CH-.
concieve. Misspelling of CONCEIVE.
con'crete, not *concreet*. Compare DISCREET.
con-cur' *doubles* the final *r* before a suffix beginning with a vowel; **con-curred', con-cur'rence, con-cur'ring.**
con-demn'. The final *n* is silent. See N.
con"de-scend'. Note that the *c* in the last syllable is silent. See SC.
con"de-scen'sion, not *condescention*. The second *c* is silent.
con-dign'. Note the *g* which is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and G.
con-do'lence, not *condolense*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
con-du'cive, not *condusive*.
con-fec'tion-a-ry (pertaining to sweetmeats or to a confectioner's shop), distinguish from **con-fec'tion-er-y** (sweetmeats or a shop where they are sold).
con-fer' *doubles* the *r* when before a suffix beginning with a vowel: **con-fer'ra-ble, con-ferred', con-fer'rer, con-fer'ring.** Exception: **con'fer-ence**, but in this word stress is on the first syllable.
con"fi-dant' (one in whom another reposes confidence), distinguish from **con'fi-dent** (having confidence; self-reliant). See SUFFIXES, p. 6.
con"fi-dante'. Feminine of CONFIDANT.
con"frère'. A colleague.
con"gé' (dismissal), distinguish this French word from **con-gee** (to make a bow; also, dismissal).
con-geal', not *congeel*.
Con'naught. A province of Ireland. Note the spelling of the last syllable—not *Connought*.
Con-nect'i-cut. Note the *c* in the second syllable.

con″nois-seur′. Note the unusual spelling of the last two syllables. A word taken from the French which is pronounced as if spelt *kon′i-sur.*

con′quer-or, not *conquerer.*

con′science. Note that the second syllable, altho spelt like the word "science," is pronounced as if it were spelt *shens.* See SC.

con″sci-en-tious, not *consciencious.*

con-sen′sus, not *concensus.*

con-ses′sion (a joint session or sitting together), distinguish from **con-ces′sion** (a grant).

con-sign′. Note the *g* which is silent in this word and its derivatives: **con-sign′a-ble, con″sign-ee′, con-sign′er, con-sign′ment, con″sign-or′,** but heard in **con″sig-na′tion** and **con-sig′na-to-ry.**

con′sole (a bracket), distinguish from **con′sul** (an official commercial representative of one country in another).

con′sole (to cheer in distress), distinguish from **coun′sel** (to advise).

con-sols (British government securities, "consolidated annuities"), distinguish from **con′suls** (official commercial representatives in foreign countries).

con′so-nance (accord or harmony of sounds), distinguish from **con′so-nants** (letters whose proper sounds are pronounceable without the aid of vowels). See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

con′sort. See under CONCERT.

con-spire′ *drops* the *e* when before a suffix beginning with a vowel as: *-acy, -ant, -ator, -er.* **con-spir′a-cy, con-spir′ant, con-spir′a-tor, con-spir′er.**

con′strue *drops* the *e* when before *-ing*: **con′stru-ing.**

con′sue-tude. Note the second syllable which is pronounced *swi*—the *i* is short.

con′sul (a commercial representative of a government in a country foreign to his own), not to be confused with **coun′sel** (an adviser) or with **coun′cil** (a deliberative body). See also CONSOLE, COUNCIL.

con′su-lar (pertaining to a consul), distinguish from **coun′cil-or** (member of a council), **coun′sel-or** (an adviser).

con-ta′gious, not *contageous.*

con-temn′. The final *n* is silent. See N.

con-tem″po-ra′ne-ous, not *contemporanious.*

con-tempt′i-ble, not *contemptable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

con-tract'i-ble, not *contractable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

con-tract'or, not *contracter.*

con"tre-temps'. A French word the last syllable of which is pronounced as if spelt *tan* ("a" as in "arm").

con-trib'u-to-ry, con-trib'u-ta-ry. Both forms are in use but the first is preferred. See -ARY, -ORY, pp. 6, 11.

con-trol' *doubles* the *l* when before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as *-ability, -able, -ed, -er, -ing;* **con-trol"la-bil'ity, con-trol'la-ble, con-trolled', con-trol'ler, con-trol'ling.**

con"tro-vert-i-ble, not *controvertable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

con"va-lesce' *drops* the *e* when before a suffix beginning with a vowel as, *-ed, -ence, -ent, -ing:* **con"va-lesced', con"va-les'cence, con"va-les'cent, con"va-les'-cing.** See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

con"ver-sa"zi-o'ne. An Italian word used to denote a meeting for conversation on some topic, as art or literature.

con-ver'sion, not *convertion.*

con-vert'i-ble, not *convertable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5, 9.

con-vey'ance, not *conveyence.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

con-vey'er, con-vey'or. Both forms are in use but the first is preferred.

con-vinc'i-ble, not *convinceable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

coop (an enclosure), distinguish from **coup** (a master-stroke).

co-par'ce-na-ry, not *coparcenery.* See next word.

co-par'ce-ner, not *coparsener.*

cop'i-er. A copyist.

cop'ies (reproductions in imitation of an original), distinguish from **cop'pice** (a thicket).

cop'ing, not *copeing.*

cop'y *drops* the *y* for *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **cop'ied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **cop'y-ing.**

co-quet' (to trifle in love), distinguish from **co-quette'** (flirt).

cord (a string), distinguish from **chord** (a term in music).

core (middle), distinguish from **corps** (body of men).

co"re-spon'dent (a joint respondent), distinguish from **cor"re-spon'dent** (one who carries on a correspondence by mail). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

cor'ol-la-ry, not *corollery.*

cor'po-ral (an officer), distinguish from **cor-po're-al** (having a body).
corps (body of men), distinguish from **core** (middle).
cor'pus-cle. The trigraph, *cle*, of the final syllable, is pronounced as *l*.
cor"re-late', not *corelate.*
cor"re-spon'dence (communication by letters), not *correspondance.* Distinguish from **cor"re-spon'dents** (one who communicates with another by letter, etc.). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
cor"re-spon'dent (one who carries on a correspondence by mail), distinguish from **co"re-spon-dent** (a joint respondent). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
cor'ri-gi-ble, not *corrigable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
cor-rupt'i-ble, not *corruptable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
corse (a dead body), distinguish from **coarse** (rough), and **course** (a career, a race). Compare CORE; CORPS.
co'sy. See under COZY.
cote (sheepfold), distinguish from **coat** (an outer garment).
co"te-rie'. A set of persons who associate; a clique.
cough. Pronounced as if spelt *cof.* Compare GH.
cough'er (one who coughs), distinguish from **cof'fer** (a strong box).
co-til'lion, not *cotillon.*
could. Note that the *l* is silent and the word is pronounced as if spelt *kud.*
cou-lomb'. The final *b* is silent. See B.
coul'ter. See COLTER.
coun'cil (deliberative body), distinguish from **coun'sel** (advice).
coun'cil-or (member of a council), distinguish from **coun'-sel-or** (adviser), **con'su-lar** (pertaining to a consul).
count'er (a shop table), distinguish from **comp'ter** (a prison).
coun'ter-feit, not *counterfiet* or *counterfit.*
coun'try *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural, **coun'tries.**
coun'ty *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural, **coun'ties.**
coup (a master stroke), distinguish from **coop** (a hutch-like enclosure).
coup de grâce. A French phrase in which the *p* is silent.
coupd'é"tat'. A French phrase in which the *p* and final *t* are silent.

coup'le *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **coupled, coup'ling,** but not before *-able* in forming the adjective **coup'le-a-ble.**

cou'pon, not *cupon.*

cour'age *retains* the final vowel before a suffix beginning with a vowel: **cou-ra'geous.**

cou'ri-er (a messenger), distinguish from **cur'ri-er** (a leather-dresser).

course. See CORSE.

cours'er (a swift horse), distinguish from **coars'er** (comparative of COARSE).

courte'sy (a bow in politeness), distinguish from **cour'te-sy** (politeness). The spelling **curt'sy** for the first was formerly common and should be restored to facilitate the distinction.

cous'in (a relation), not *cuzin* as pronounced. Distinguish from **coz'en** (to cheat).

cov'er, not *cuv'er* as pronounced.

cov'e-nant, not *cuvenant* (as pronounced), or *covenent.*

cov'er, cov'ert, cov'er-ture, cov'et, cov'ey. In all these words the first syllable is spelt *cov,* but pronounced as if spelt *cuv.*

cow'ry (a shell used as money in Africa), distinguish from **kau'ri** (a tree of New Zealand that yields **kau'ri-gum**).

cox'comb″ (a conceited fop), distinguish from **cocks'comb** (a plant with red flowers that resemble the comb of a cock).

coz'en (to cheat), distinguish from **cous'in** (a relation).

co'zy. This spelling prevails in the United States; **co'sy** and **co'sey** are common in Great Britain. These words change the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **co'zi-er, co'zi-est.**

craw (the crop of a bird), distinguish from **crow** (a bird).

cray'on. Note the *y* in this word.

creak (to make a harsh noise), distinguish from **creek** (a small bay), **crick** (a pain in the neck).

crease (a wrinkle), distinguish from **cress** (a plant).

crease (*v.*), *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **creased, creas'ing.**

cre-a'tor, not *creater.*

crèche. Pronounced as if written *craysh.*

cred'i-ble, not *credable.*

creek. Distinguish from CREAK.

cre'o-sote, not *creasote*.
crews (ships' companies), distinguish from **cruise** (to sail about) and from **cruse** (a pitcher).
crew'el (a ball of yarn), distinguish from **cru'el** (savage; inhuman).
crick. Distinguish from CREAK.
cri'sis (*sing.*), distinguish from **cri'ses** (*plur.*).
crit'i-cize, crit'i-cise. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails in the United States and the second in Great Britain.
crit'i-cism, not *criticizm*.
cro-chet (fancy work). Pronounced as if spelt *croshay*. Distinguish from **crotch'et** (a note in music; also, an eccentricity). The participles of the verb are spelt **cro-cheted'** (pronounced *croshayed*), **cro-chet'ing** (pronounced *croshaying*).
cro-quet' (a lawn-game), distinguish from **cro-quette'** (a cake of minced food). The verb **croquet** *does not* double the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in **cro-quet'ed, cro-quet'ing.**
crow (a bird), distinguish from **craw** (the crop of a bird).
cru"ci-fix'ion, not *crucifiction*.
cru'el (pitiless; inhuman), distinguish from **crew'el** (a ball of yarn).
cruise (to sail about), distinguish from **crews** (ships' companies).
cruis'ing, not *cruiseing*.
crys'tal *doubles* the final *l* before suffixes beginning with a vowel; as, **crys'tal-line, crys'tal-liz"a-ble, crys"tal-li-za'tion, crys"tal-log'ra-phy, crys'tal-loid.**
cten'oid (comb-like). In the pronunciation of this word the *c* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.
Ctes'i-phon (ruined city on the Tigris). In the pronunciation of this name the *C* is silent.
cudg'el, not *cudgil*. The final *l* is doubled before a suffix beginning with a vowel: as, **cudg'elled, cudg'el-ling.**
cue (**1.** A hint. **2.** A long, straight rod used in billiards. **3.** A tail or braid, as of hair. **4.** A long line of persons), distinguish from **Kew** (a town on the Thames, England).
cul"-de-sac', not *cule-de-sack*.
cul'ler (a selector), distinguish from **col'or** (a hue).
cul'ture (refinement of the mind, morals, taste, etc.), distinguish from **kul'tur** (submerging of sense for the common good).

cum'in (a plant), distinguish from **com'ing** (approaching).

cup'board. Note the *p* in this word which is silent in pronunciation. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.

cur'a-ble, not *cureable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

cu"ra-çao' (a liqueur). Pronounced as if spelt *kuraso;* distinguish from **cu-ras'sow** (a turkey-like bird).

cu'ri-o. To form the plural add *s:* **cu'ri-os,** not *curioes.*

cur'rant (a small fruit), distinguish from **cur'rent** (an onward movement.

cur-ric'u-lum. Note the two *r's* in this word.

cur'ri-er (a leather dresser), distinguish from **cou'ri-er** (a messenger).

cy"clo-pe'an, not *cyclopœan.*

cy"clo-pe'di-a, cy"clo-pæ'di-a. Both forms are used but the first is preferred.

cyg'net (a young swan), distinguish from **sig'net** (a seal).

cym'bal (a musical instrument), distinguish from **sym'bol** (a sign).

cyn'i-cism (something peculiar to a skeptic), distinguish from **Sin'i-cism** (something peculiar to the Chinese).

cyst (a sac of morbid matter), distinguish from **cist** (a box; chest).

D

d. In certain combinations this letter is silent, as in *soldier* (soljer), and before *j* in *adjective, adjourn, adjudge,* etc. It is silent also in the first syllable of *granddaughter, handkerchief, handsome, Wednesday.* See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

dachs'hund, not *dacshund.*

dah-lia, not *dalia* or *dhalia.* The Swedish botanist whose name was given to the flower is *Dahl.*

dai'ry (a place where milk is kept), distinguish from **di'a-ry** (a record of daily events).

dam (a barrier across a stream to check its flow; also, a female parent of an animal), distinguish from **damn** (to condemn).

dam (*v.*) *doubles* the *m* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **dammed, dam'ming.**

Dane (a native of Denmark), distinguish from **deign** (to vouchsafe).

da'tum (*sing.*). The plural of this word is formed by changing *-um* to *-a:* **da'ta** (*plur.*), not *datas* or *datums.*

daugh'ter. Note the spelling and see GH.

day (a period of time), distinguish from **dey** (a Moorish governor).

daze (to dazzle), distinguish from **days** (plural of day). The verb **daze** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participle **dazed, daz'ing.**

dear (costly; loved), distinguish from **deer** (a wild animal).

dearth, death. Note that in these words the *a* is silent, and that they are pronounced as if written *derth, deth.* The Middle English forms were *derthe* and *deth.*

de-bate' *drops* the final *e* before *-able, -ed, -ing* to form the adjective **de-bat'a-ble,** and the participles **de-bat'-ed, de-bat'ing.**

de-bil'i-ty, not *debillity.*

deb"o-nair', deb"on-naire'. All are in use but the first is preferred.

dé"bris' or **deb"ris'.** Note that the *s* is silent in this word.

debt, debt'or. Note that the *b* is silent in these words which are derived from the Latin *debitus,* pp. of *debeo,* owe. The word *debt,* traced back to the Latin, came into English from the French *dette* and therefore the *b* should not be retained but it is.

dé"but'. Note the final *t* in this word which is silent in the root-word, and in **dé"bu'tant** but not in its derivative **dé"bu"tante.**

de-cease' (death), distinguish from **dis-ease'** (illness; sickness), and **dis-seize'** (to dispossess).

de-ce'dent, not *desedent.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

de-ceit', not *deciet.* See EI, p. 7.

de-ceive', not *decieve.* The root word *drops* the final *e* before *-able, -ableness, -ably;* **de-ceiv'a-ble, de-ceiv'-a-ble-ness,** etc. See EI, p. 7.

de-cen'ni-al, not *decenial.*

de'cent (proper; modest), distinguish from **de-scent'** (a going down, declivity), and **dis-sent'** (to disagree). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

deck'le, not *deckel.*

de-claim', *retains* the *i* in **de-claim'er** but drops it in **dec"la-ma'tion, de-clam'a-to-ry.**

de-clare' *drops* the final *e* in forming the adjectives **de-clar'a-tive, de-clar'a-to-ry.**

de-cline' *drops* the final *e* in forming the adjectives **de-clin'a-ble, dec'li-nate, de-cli'na-to-ry,** and the nouns **dec"li-na'tion** and **de-cli'na-ture.**

de-coct'i-ble, not *decoctable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

dé"col"le-té' (cut low in the neck, as a gown), distinguish from **dé"col"le-tée'** (having the neck and shoulders bare: said of a woman in a *décolleté* gown).

dec'o-ra"tor, not *decorater.*

de-crease', not *decreace.*

de-cry'. The *y* changes to *i* before *-al, -ed, -er;* **de-cri'al, de-cried', de-cri'er.**

de-duc'i-ble, not *deducable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

deer (an animal), does not change in form to make the plural **deer** (animals). See RULES, p. 13.

deer (a wild animal of the antlered variety), distinguish from **dear** (beloved; costly).

de-face' *retains* the final *e* in its derivatives **de-face'a-ble, de-face'ment,** but *drops* it before *-ing* in **de-fac'ing.**

def"a-ma'tion (the act of slandering), distinguish from **def"or-ma'tion** (the act of disfiguring; defacement).

de-fea'sance, not *defeasaunce.*

de-fea'si-ble, not *defeasable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

de-fend'ant, not *defendent.* See SUFFIXES, p. 6.

de-fense', de-fence'. Both forms are in use; the first, in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

de-fen'si-ble, not *defencible* or *defensable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

de-fer' (delay), distinguish from **dif'fer** (disagree).

de-fer'. The final consonant is not doubled before *-ence* and *-ent,* but it is doubled before *-ed* and *-ing;* **def'er-ence, def'er-ent,** but **de-ferred', de-fer'ring.**

de-fer'a-ble, not *deferible.* Compare REFERABLE. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

def'er-ence (respect), distinguish from **dif'fer-ence** (variation). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

de-fi'ance, not *defience.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

def'i-cit, not *defisit.*

def'la-grate, not *defligreat.*

de-flect' (to cause to swerve), distinguish from **de-flex'** (to bend abruptly downward).

de-flec'tion (deviation), distinguish from **de-flex'ure** (the condition of being bent).

de-form'i-ty (misshapedness), distinguish from **dif-for'mi-ty** (diversity of form).

de-fy' *changes y* to *i* before *-ed* in **de-fied',** but *retains* the *y* in the present participle **de-fy'ing.**

deign (to vouchsafe), distinguish from **Dane** (a native of Denmark).

de-laine', not *delane.*

del'e-ble, del'i-ble. Both are in use; not *delable.*

del'e-gate, not *delagate* or *deligate.*

de-light'. In this word and its derivatives, **de-light'ful, de-light'ful-ly,** etc., the *gh* is silent. See GH.

de-lu'sion (a deception), distinguish from **di-lu'tion** (to dilute).

de"mar-ca'tion, de"mar-ka'tion. Both are in use,

de-mean'or, de-mean'our. Both forms are in use; the first, in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

de-mesne'. Note that the *s* in this word is silent, and the word is pronounced as written in Early Anglo-French, *demene.*

de-mor'al-ize, not *demoralise.*

de-mur *doubles* the *r* in the participles **de-murred', de-mur'ring** and in the derivatives **de-mur'rage, de-mur'ral, de-mur'rer.**

de-mur' (to hesitate), distinguish from **de-mure'** (modest).

de-ni'al, not *denyal.*

de-noue'ment. Note the spelling of the second syllable which is pronounced as if spelt *nu* ("u" as in "rule").

dense (thick; close), distinguish from **dents** (indentations).

den'tal (pertaining to the teeth), distinguish from **den'til** (a square projecting block in a cornice).

de-pen'den-cy, not *dependancy.*

de-po'nent, not *deponant.* Compare DEFENDANT. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

de-pos'i-ta-ry' (receiver), distinguish from **de-pos'i-to-ry** (place of deposit). The plurals of these words are formed by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *es.*

de-pos'i-tor, not *depositers.*

de'pot. Pronounced as if written *de'po.* Note that the *t* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.

dep're-cate (to disapprove), distinguish from **de-pre'ci-ate** (to lessen in value).

dep'u-tize, not *deputise.*

de-raign', not *dereign.* Note that the *g* is silent. See G.

de-scend'ant (offspring), distinguish from **de-scend'ent** (proceeding downward). See SUFFIXES, p. 6.

de-scend'i-ble, de-scend'a-ble. Both forms are in use but the first is preferred. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
de-scen'sion (descent), distinguish from **dis-sen'sion** (strife).
de-scent' (going down), distinguish from **dis-sent'** (to disagree), and **de'cent** (becoming).
de-scrip'tive, not *describtive.*
des'ert (a waste place), distinguish from **des-sert'** (a course of sweets after a meal).
dés"ha"bil"lé'. A French word, pronounced as if spelt *dezabiyey.*
de-sir'a-ble, not *desireable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
des-patch'. Misspelling of DISPATCH, which see.
des'per-ate. Note the second syllable and see SEPARATE.
de-spis'a-ble, not *despiseable.*
de-spise', not *despize.*
de-spon'den-cy, not *despondancy.*
des-sert' (a course of sweets after a meal), distinguish from **des'ert** (a desert).
de-struc'ti-ble, not *destructable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
des'ue-tude (disuse). Note the second syllable. The word is pronounced as if spelt *deswetude.*
de-tail', not *detale.*
de-ter' *doubles* the *r* when before *-ed, -ence,* and *-ent;* **de-terred', de-ter'rence, de-ter'rent.**
det'i-nue, not *detinew.*
de-trac'ter, de-trac'tor. Both forms are in use.
de-vice' (a contrivance), distinguish from **de-vise'** (contrive; transmit by will).
de-vis'er (one who contrives), distinguish from **di-vis'or** (a number).
dew (moisture), distinguish from **due** (owing; fit).
dex'ter-ous, not *dextrous.*
dex-trorse' (rising toward the right), distinguish from **dex'trose** (a sugar found in plants and in honey).
dey (a Moorish governor), distinguish from **day** (a period of time).
di-am'e-ter, not *diammeter.*
di'a-phragm. Note that the *g* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.
di"ar-rhe'a, di"ar-rhœ'a. Both form are in use but the first prevails.
di'a-ry (a daily record of events), distinguish from **dai'ry** (a place where milk is kept).

dice (small ivory cubes), distinguish from **dies** (metal devices for stamping).

dic'ta. The Latin plural of **dic'tum.** Frequently used erroneously as a singular. Correctly: "*This* dictum"; "*these* dicta."

dic'tion-a-ry, not *dictionry.*

die (a metal device for stamping), distinguish from **dye** (a color).

die (a bone or ivory cube). The plural is formed irregularly, the *e* being dropped and *ce* added, **dice.**

di-er'e-sis, di-ær'e-sis. Both forms are in use, but the former prevails as the modern tendency is to discard diphthongs.

dies (expires), distinguish from **dice** (small ivory cubes).

dif'fer (to disagree), distinguish from **de-fer'** (delay).

dif'fer-ence (variation), distinguish from **def'er-ence** (respect). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

dif-form'i-ty (lack of uniformity), distinguish from **de-form'i-ty** (disfigurement).

di-gest'i-ble, not *digestable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

dike, dyke. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails.

dil'a-to-ry, not *dilitary.*

di-lem'ma, not *dilema.*

di-lu'tion (the act of diluting), distinguish from **de-lu'sion** (a deception).

di-men'sion, not *demension* or *dimention.*

dim'i-ty, not *dimmity;* the word is derived from the Greek *di-,* twice, and *mitos,* thread of the warp.

din *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **dinned, din'ning.**

di'ner, sometimes divided **din'er** (one who dines), distinguish from **din'ner** (a meal).

din'gey (a small boat), distinguish from **din'gy** (dull; tarnished).

diph-the'ri-a, diph'thong, not *diptheria* or *dipthong.*

dire (distressful), distinguish from **dy'er** (one who colors).

dir'i-gi-ble, not *dirigeable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

dis-a'ble (to cripple), distinguish from **dis"ha-bille'** (undress). See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

dis"ap-pear', not *dissappear.*

disc. See under DISK.

dis-cern'i-ble, not *discernable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

dis-close', not *discloze.*

dis-com'fit (to defeat; rout), distinguish from **dis-com'fort** (to make uneasy).

dis-creet' (prudent), distinguish from **dis-crete'** (distinct).

dis-crep'an-cy, not *discrepency.*

dis'cus (a quoit), distinguish from **dis'cous** (in the form of a disc).

dis-ease' (an illness), distinguish from **de-cease** (death), and **dis-seize'** (to dispossess).

dis-fran'chise, not *disfranchize.*

dis-guise'. Note the *u* in the second syllable. Not *desguise* or *disgise.*

dis"ha-bille (undress), distinguish from **dis-a'ble** (to cripple).

di-shev'el. The participles of this word are formed by adding *-ed* and *-ing*, or *-led* and *-ling* to the root-word.

disk, disc. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

dis-patch'. The original spelling which dates from about 1500. The erroneous form *despatch* arose from a misreading of the text of Johnson's Dictionary in which the word was entered under *des-* by mistake, for Johnson himself always wrote it *dispatch.*

dis-patch'er, not *despatcher.*

dis-pen'sa-ble, not *dispensible.*

dis-seize' (to dispossess), distinguish from **de-cease'** (death) and **dis-ease'** (illness; disorder).

dis-sen'sion (strife), distinguish from **de-scen'sion** (descent).

dis-sent' (to disagree), distinguish from **de'cent** (becoming), and **de-scent'** (going down).

dis'si-pat"ed, not *disipated.*

dis-ten'si-ble, not *distensable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

dis'tich, not *distik* as pronounced.

dis-tor'tion, not *distorsion.*

dived, not *dove* which is colloquial.

di'vers (more than one), distinguish from **di'verse** (distinct).

di-vis'i-ble, not *divisable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

di-vis'or (that by which a number is divided), distinguish from **de-vis'er** (one who invents).

di-vul'sion, not *divultion.*

do (a note in music), distinguish from **doe** (a female deer), and **dough** (a soft paste of flour or meal).

doc'i-ble (capable of being taught), distinguish from **dos'a-ble** (that can be administered by the dose). See SUFFIXES, pp. 5, 9.

doc'ile (tractable), distinguish from **dos'sal** (a silk hanging), and **dos'sil** (a roll of lint).

doc"tri-naire', not *doctrinare.*

does. See DOZE.

dol'man (a cape like garment), distinguish from **dol'men** (a table stone or something formed with several of them).

done (finished), distinguish from **dun** (a color; to press for payment).

do'nor, not *doner.*

door (the hinged or sliding cover that closes the entrance of a building), not *dor* or *dore*, which was the original spelling (A. D. 1100) displaced by *dure* (A. D. 1250), but *dore* prevailed until 1684 when it was supplanted by *door.* The current pronunciation is merely the application of the original pronunciation to the new spelling. Distinguish from **dor** (a large scavenger beetle).

dor'mant, not *dorment.*

dose. See DOZE.

dos'sal, dos'sil. See DOCILE.

dost (2d person sing., pres. ind. of DO). Distinguish from **dust** (to wipe off pulverized earth).

do'tage (feebleness of mind), not *dot'tage.*

doub'ling (folding), distinguish from **Dub'lin** (a city in Ireland).

doubt. A word artificially spelt because Latin influence implied a derivation from L. *dubitare,* to waver or hesitate; instead of Old French *douter,* Middle English, *doute.* The *b* is silent in root-word and derivatives.

dough. See under DO.

doze (to drowze), distinguish from **does** (plural of DOE, or 3d person sing. of DO), and **dose** (a prescribed quantity).

draft (an order to pay money, also a current of air), not *draught.* Distinguish from **drought** (dearth; thirst).

dram (a small weight), distinguish from **drach'ma** (an ancient coin).

drawn (attracted; pulled; also, sketched), distinguish from **drone** (an idler; also, a humming sound), **drown** (death by immersion).

dread′naught (a heavy cloth; also, fearless), distinguish from **dread′nought** (a type of modern battleship).
drom′e-da-ry, not *dromadery*.
drone. See under DRAWN.
drought, drouth. Both forms are in use, but the first, in which the *gh* is silent, is preferred. See GH.
drought. See under DRAFT.
drown. See under DRAWN.
drowse, not *drowze*.
drub *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **drubbed, drub′bing,** and the derivatives **drub′ber** and **drub′ble.**
drug *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **drugged, drug′ging,** and in the derivatives **drug′ger, drug′-gist, drug′gy.**
drum adds *m* to *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **drummed, drum′ming,** and to *-er* and *y* in forming the noun **drum′mer,** and adjective **drum′my.**
dry. The final *y* is changed to *i* before *-ed* (**dried**), *-er* (**dri′er**), *-est* (**dri′est**), but the adverb is spelt **dri′ly** or **dry′ly.**
du′al (composed of two), distinguish from **duel** (an encounter between two parties).
du′al-ist (a believer in two natures), distinguish from **du′el-ist** (one of two fighters).
dub (to smooth or dress with grease; also, to confer a title on) *doubles* the *b* in the participles **dubbed, dub′bing.**
du′bi-ous, not *dubeous*.
Dub′lin (the capital city of Ireland), distinguish from **doub′ling** (folding, multiplying).
due (owing; fit), distinguish from **dew** (moisture).
due *drops* the *e* in forming the adverb **du′ly.**
du′el-ist. See under DUALIST.
dul′ness, dull′ness. Both forms are used, but the latter is more common.
Du′ma (a Russian legislative body), distinguish from **Du′mas** (a French novelist or his son). The *s* in the latter word is silent.
dumb. The *b* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.
dum″found, dumb″found′. The modern tendency is to omit the *b*, which is not heard in pronunciation.
dum′my. The *y* changes to *i* before *-ed*, and the plural of the noun is formed by changing *y* to *i* and adding *es:* **dum′mied, dum′mies.**

dun (to press for payment), distinguish from **done** (finished).

dun *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **dunned** and **dun'ning.**

dunce *drops* the *e* before *-ish* to form the adjective **dun'cish.** The root word is derived from *Duns* Scotus, a 14th century opponent of learning.

dun'geon (a dark underground cell). Note the last syllable which is pronounced as if spelt *jun.* Distinguish from **don'jon** (the chief tower of a medieval castle).

dupe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* to form the participles **duped, dup'ing,** but **dup"a-bil'i-ty** is spelt also **dupe"a-bil'i-ty** and **dup'a-ble,** also **dupe'a-ble.**

dust (pulverized earth), distinguish from **dost** (DO, *v.*), and **durst** (DARE, *v.*).

du'te-ous, not *dutious.*

du'ty. The *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added; as, **du'ti-a-ble, du'ti-ful.**

dwell. The past participle may be formed by adding *-ed,* or substituting *t* for the final *l*—**dwelled** or **dwelt.**

dye' (a color), distinguish from **die** (a device for stamping).

dye *retains* the *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel; as, **dye'a-ble, dye'ing.**

dy'er (one who colors), distinguish from **dire** (dreadful).

dy'ing (expiring), distinguish from **dye'ing** (coloring).

dy'nas-ty. The final *y* changes to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **dy'nas-ties.**

dys'en-ter-y, not *dysentry.*

E

e. The English sounds of the letter *e* are as in "get," "prey," "sergeant," "pear," "earn," "fern," "meet," "valley," and "over." Silent "e's", as in *gladden, give,* are four per cent. of all the letters on a common printed page. Most of them were formerly pronounced, but in later English silent "e" is used as an orthographic expedient to mark the vowel before it as long (*fat, fate; met, mete; pin, pine*), or to mark *c, g, s,* as having the sound of *s, j, z; hence, stage, nose.* In a page of English "e" is much the most frequent type. English printers use é, è, ê, in French words, even when partially Anglicized, and ê, ē, in words transliterated from strange alphabets. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

Among innumerable speakers . . . the sound of the letter *e* . . . is converted . . . into a *u* which is itself unaccompanied with any dignity of intention, which makes for mere ignoble thickness and turbidity. For choice, perhaps, "vurry"; "Amurrica," "Philadulphia," "tullegram," "twuddy" (what becomes of "twenty" here is an ineptitude truly beyond any alliteration), and the like, descend deepest into the abyss. It is enough to say of those things that they substitute limp, slack, passive tone, for clear, clean, active, tidy tone, and that they are typical . . . of an immense body of limpness and slackness and cheapness.—HENRY JAMES, *The Question of Our Speech*, p. 31 [H. M. & CO. '05].

ea. A digraph used to indicate several sounds of spoken English as in the words *each, bread, break, bear, earth, heart, guinea, lead, near*, etc. See SILENT LETTERS, pp. 1-2.

each. Note the *a* in this word written in Old English *eche* and *ech*, forms no longer used.

ea'ger. Note the *a* in this word written in Old English *egre*, a form no longer used.

ea'gle, not *egle.*

ear (the organ of hearing), distinguish from **e'er** (contraction of *ever*).

ear'ly, not *erly*, but so pronounced.

earn (to gain by labor, service, or performance), distinguish from **urn** (a vase-like receptacle).

ear'nest (serious; grave), distinguish from **Er'nest** (a masculine personal name).

earth. Note that the *a* is silent and the word pronounced as if spelt *erth.* Its Middle English form was *erthe.*

eas'y, *changes y to i* before *-er, -est,* and *-ly;* as, **eas'i-er, eas'i-est, eas'i-ly.**

eas'i-er, eas'i-ly. See under EASY.

eave (the projecting ledge of a roof: used usually in the plural, **eaves**), distinguish from **eve** (the close of day, and **Eve** (a feminine personal name).

ebb, not *eb.*

eb"ul-li'tion, not *ebulition.*

ec-cen'tric, not *excentric.*

ech'o. To form plural add *es*, **ech'oes.** Compare CH.

é"clat'. A word derived from the French in which the *t* is silent. Compare T.

e-con"o-mi-za'tion, not *economisation.*

e-con'o-mize, not *econimize.* The participles of this verb are formed by dropping the final *e* and adding *-ed* and *-ing:* **e-con'o-mized, e-con'o-miz"ing.**

ec'sta-sy, not *ecstacy.*

-ed. A suffix used in English to form (1) the past tense of verbs; (2) the past participle of regular verbs, and (3) analogous adjectives. It is sometimes pronounced as if written *-st* as in *accursed, addressed.* Root-words ending in *e* drop the *e* before *-ed;* as, *love, lov-ed,* etc.

edge *drops* the final *e* before *-ing,* but *retains* it before *-able, -less, -ways* and *-wise;* **edge'a-ble, edge'less, edge'ways, edge'wise.**

ed'i-ble, not *edable* or *edeble.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

ee. A digraph used to indicate the vowel sounds heard in *beech* and *coffee;* also, in Great Britain, *been* commonly mispronounced in the United States *bin.*

e'er (contraction of *ever*), distinguish from **ere** (sooner than).

ef-fect' (to bring about; also, the result or consequence brought about), distinguish from **af-fect'** (to influence).

ef-fect'i-ble, not *effectable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

ef"fer-vesce'. Note that the *c* is not heard when the word is pronounced, and that the final *e* is dropped before *-ing;* **ef"fer-vesc'ing.**

ef-fete', not *effeat* or *effeet.*

ef'fi-ca-cy, not *efficasy.*

ef-fi'cient, not *eficient.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

ei. In English this digraph is used to represent the sound of *e* as in "eve," as in *conceive, deceive, either, neither, receive,* etc., that of *e* in "they," as in *deign, feign, rein, veil.* See EI, p. 7.

eigh. A quadrigraph that is pronounced *ay* in English. It is used in various positions: initial in *eight, eighteen;* after *n* in *neighbor,* and final in *sleigh* and *weigh.*

eight (consisting of one more than seven), distinguish from **eighth** (one of eight equal parts; also, the next in order after the seventh).

e-lec'tri-cute, e-lec'tro-cute. Both forms have been used but the first prevails.

e-lec-trol'y-sis, not *electrolisis.*

e-lec'tro-lyze, not *electrolise.* The form **e-lec'tro-lyse** is common in Great Britain.

el"e-e-mos'y-na-ry (charitable). A word as frequently misspelt as it is mispronounced—NOT *elemosynery.*

elf. Drop the *f* and add *-ves* to form the plural: **elves.** See RULE 4, p. 14.

e-lic'it (to draw out), distinguish from **il-lic'it** (unlawful).

el'i-gi-ble (fit to be chosen), distinguish from **il-leg'i-ble** (that can not be read). See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

e-lim'i-nate, not *elimanate.*

el-lip'sis, not *elipsis.*

e-lude' (to avoid), distinguish from **al-lude'** (to refer to). See ILLUDE.

e-lud'i-ble, not *eludable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

e-lu'sion (the act of escaping), distinguish from **il-lu'sion** (deception; delusion).

elves. Plural of ELF.

em-bar'rass, em-bar'rassed, em-bar'ras-sing, em-bar'rass-ment. These words are all correctly spelt with double *r* and double *s* but are frequently misspelt, one *r* being omitted.

em-bed' *doubles* the *d* in the participles **em-bed'ded, em-bed'ding.**

em-bod'y. The *y* is changed to *i* and *-ed* is added to form the past participle: **em-bod'ied,** and the *y* is changed to *i* before *-ment* to form the noun **em-bod'i-ment.**

em"bon"point'. A French word of which the last syllable is pronounced as if it were written *pwan* ("a" as in "at").

em-brace *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the past and present participles **em-braced', em-brac'ing.**

e-mend' (to make changes in, as a result of criticism), distinguish from **a-mend'** (to alter by authority, as a law).

e-merse' (to cause to come to the surface, as of water), distinguish from **im-merse'** (to dip or plunge into a fluid, as water). The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **e-mersed', e-mers'ing.**

em'i-grant' (one who moves out of a country to go to another), distinguish from **im'mi-grant** (one who comes into a country from another). Note that *em* means "out of", and *im* means "into."

em'i-grate. Distinguish from **im'mi-grate.** See EMIGRANT.

em'i-nent (prominent), distinguish from **im'mi-nent** (impending; threatening). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

em'is-sa-ry (one sent on a mission), distinguish from **em'is-so-ry** (sending out).

e-mit' *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **e-mit'ted, e-mit'ting.**

em-pale′, em-pale′ment are preferred to **im-pale′, im-pale′ment,** but both forms are in use.

em-pan′el. Alternative form of **im-pan′el,** the preferred form.

em″pen″nage′ (the tail parts of an air-plane), not *onpenage*—a French word of recent introduction.

emperiled. Obsolete spelling of IMPERILED.

em′pha-sis changes *i* to *e* in the plural, **em′pha-ses.**

em′pha-size, not *emphasise.* The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **em′pha-sized, em′pha-siz″ing.**

em-pir′i-cal (experimentative), distinguish from **em-pyr′i-cal** (pertaining to burning or combustion).

em″ploy-ee′, em″ploy-é′. Both forms are in use but the first is to be preferred.

em-pyr′e-al (heavenly; refined), distinguish from **im-pe′ri-al** (pertaining to an emperor).

en-am′el. The participles are formed by adding *-ed* or *-led* for the past participle, and *-ing* or *-ling* for the present participle: **en-am′eled** or **en-am′elled: en-am′el-ing** or **en-am′el-ling.**

en-close′, in-close′. Both forms are in use. See INCLOSE.

en-co′mi-um, not *enconium.*

en-cour′ag-ing, not *encourageing.* See COURAGE.

en-cum′brance, not *encumberance.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5–6.

en-deav′or, not *endevor.* The English spelling is **en-deav′our.**

en-dorse′. See INDORSE.

en′e-my changes *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **en′e-mies.**

en′er-gize, not *energise.* The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **en′er-gized, en′er-giz-ing.**

en-feoff′. Note the spelling of the last syllable which is pronounced as if the word were spelt *enfef.*

en-force′ *retains* the final *e* before *-able* and *-ment,* in **en-force′a-ble, en-force′ment;** but *drops* it before *-ed* and *-ing;* **en-forced′, en-forc′ing.**

en-fran′chise, not *enfranchize.*

en-gage′ *retains* the final *e* before *-able, -ant* and *-ment,* as in **en-gage′a-ble, en-gage′ant, en-gage′ment,** but *drops* it before *-ed* and *-ing;* as in **en-gaged′** and **en-gag′ing.**

en′gine, not *engine,* an old spelling used by Burns etc.

en-gulf′ *preferred* to **in-gulf′**, not *engulph* or *ingulph*.
en″nui′, not *ennuy*.
e-nough′, not *enuf*. See -OUGH.
en-roll′, **en-rol′**. Both forms are in use.
en-rol′ment, **en-roll″ment**. Both forms are in use.
en′sign, not *ensin*, but frequently mispronounced as if so spelt. The word is derived from the Latin *in*, in, and *signum*, a mark or sign, and not from *sin*.
en′si-lage, not as pronounced *ensiledge*.
en-sure′. This and **in-sure′** are generally interchangeable except in reference to accident, fire, and life insurance where *insure* is now used to the total exclusion of *ensure*.
en-tail′, not *entale* or *intail*.
en′ter (to go in), distinguish from **in-ter′** (to bury).
en′ter-prise is preferred to **en′ter-prize**, the word being derived from the Old French *entreprise*.
en-thrall′, **en-thral**. Both forms have been used but the first prevails in the English-speaking world. The participles are commonly spelt **en-thralled′**, **en-thrall′ing**, but the act of enthralling is spelt **en-thral′ment**.
en-trench′, **in-trench′**. Both forms are in use but the latter is commonly used in the military sense.
en-trust′ is more frequently used than **in-trust′**. but the latter, is preferred by most dictionaries.
en-vel′op (to cover completely), distinguish from **en′-vel-ope** (a covering for a letter). The participles of the verb are formed by adding *-ed* and *-ing* to the root, but the final *l* of the root-word is not doubled.
en-wrap′ *doubles* the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **en-wrapped′**, **en-wrap′ping**.
e′on is preferred to the classic form **æ′on** as the tendency is to discard diphthongs.
ep′au-let, not *epaulette* or *epolet*.
ep′i-gram (a pithy, pointed saying), distinguish from **ep″i-gramme′** (a lamb or veal cutlet cooked, cut, and served in a particular way).
ep″i-spas′tic (a medicinal preparation to cause blistering), distinguish from **ep″i-stax′is** (nose-bleed).
e-pit′o-mize, not *epitemize*.
ep′och. The *ch* is pronounced as *k*. See CH.
e′qua-ble, not *equible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

e'qual. The participles of the verb may be written **e'qualed** or **e'qualled, e'qual-ing** or **e'qual-ling.** Most of the derivatives are written with one *l;* as, **e-qual'i-ty** (*n.*), **e"qual-i'za-tion** (*n.*), **e'qual'ize** (*v.*), **e'qual-iz"er** (*n.*), **e'qual-ness** (*n.*). The adverb, however, is written **e'qual-ly.**

e'qual-ize, not *equalise.*

e"qui-noc'tial, not *equinoxial,* a spelling current a century ago.

e'qui-nox, not *æquinox.*

e-quip' *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **e-quipped', e-quipp'ing,** and the noun **e-quip'per.**

eq'ui-ty changes *y* to *i* and adds es in forming the plural, **eq"ui-ties** and *drops y* and adds *able* to form the adjective **eq'ui-ta-ble.**

e-rad'i-cate, not *irradicate.*

e-rase' *drops* final vowel before *-ed* and *-ing* to form the participles **e-rased', e-ras'ing.**

ere' (sooner than), distinguish from **e'er** (contraction of EVER).

er'rand (a short trip or journey), distinguish from **er'rant** (wandering).

er'rant (wandering), distinguish from **ar'rant** (notorious).

er-ro'ne-ous, not *erronious.*

er'ror, not *errour.*

e-rup'tion (a bursting out, as of lava, from a volcano), distinguish from **ir-rup'tion** (a bursting in).

er"y-sip'e-las, not *erisypelas* or *erysipilas.*

es'ca-pade, not *escapaid.*

es-cape' *retains* the final *e* before consonants; as in **es-cape'ful, es-cape'less, es-cape'ment,** but *drops* it before vowels, as in **es-cap'a-ble, es-caped', es-cap'ing.**

-esce. A suffix used to form verbs, as in **ac"qui-esce', co"a-lesce'** in which the *ce* is obscured in speech.

-escent. A combination, that occurs in words from the Latin; in which the *c* is obscured in speech, as, **ad"o-les'cent, con"va-les'cent, ef"fer-ves'cent,** etc. It has been used as a suffix to form adjectives from other words; as, **ir"i-des'cent, o"pal-es'cent.**

es"cha-tol'o-gy, not *eskatology,* as pronounced. Note that in this word and its derivatives *ch* has the sound of *k.* See CH.

es″cri-toire′, not as Thackeray and Dickens spelt it, *escrutoire.*

-ese. A suffix commonly pronounced as if written *-eze*, as in **Chi′nese,** used to form adjectives designating "belonging to, originating in," etc. Also, employed to characterize some quality, as of a writer; as, **John-son-ese, jour′nal-ese.** It should never be spelt *eze.*

Es′ki-mo, not *Esquimau.* To form the plural add *s* to the root word: **Es′ki-mos,** not *Eskimoes.*

e-soph′a-gus, œ-soph′a-gus. Both forms are used but the first is preferred in the United States.

es-say′ (an attempt), distinguish from **as-say′** (an examination).

Es′ther, pronounced as if spelt *Ester*—the *h* is silent.

es-top′pel, not *estopel.*

et. Misspelling of **ate.**

e′ther, not *æther* which is restricted to air or the sky, while the first is used for the anæsthetic.

e-the′re-al, not *æthereal.*

eu. A combination of vowels, used as a prefix in English words derived from the Greek, whose sound in speech is that heard in *feud.* The *e* is occasionally silent as in **eu′lo-gy, eu′phem-ism.** When it occurs in words derived from the French, as in *feuilleton, chauffeur,* etc., it has the sound of "u" as in "burn."

Eu′cha-rist, not *Eucarist,* the early English form. See CH.

eu′chre, not *eucre, uker* (1846), or *yuker* (1847), all now obsolete. The participles are spelt **eu′chred, eu′chring.**

eu″de-mon′ics (means of comfort or happiness), not *eudæmonics,* current till 1839, or *eudaimonics,* current till 1866. The simplified form prevails to-day.

eu′lo-gize, not *eulogise.*

eu′lo-gy, not *eulogie,* its earlier form now obsolete. To form the plural change *y* to *i* and add *-es*: **eu′lo-gies;** the *y* changes to *i* also in the derivatives **eu-lo′gi-a, eu-lo′gi-ous, eu′lo-gist, eu′lo-gize.**

eu-pho′ni-ous, not *euphoneous.*

Eu″ro-pe″an-i-za′tion, not *Europeanisation.*

Eu″ro-pe′an-ize, not *Europeanise.*

ev″a-nesce′, not *evaness.* See -ESCE.

ev″a-nes′cence, not *evanescense.*

ev″a-nes′cent, not *evanesent.*

e-van″gel-i-za′tion, not *evangelisation,* the latter being a mid-Victorian form now in disuse.

e-van'ge-lize, not *evangelise.*
eve'ning, not *evning.*
e-vin'ci-ble (capable of being proved), not *evinceable.* Distinguish from **in-vin'ci-ble** (not to be overcome; unconquerable). See -IBLE, p. 9.
ewe (a female sheep), distinguish from **yew** (a tree), **you** (the personal pronoun of the second person plural, often construed as a singular with a verb in the plural).
ewer (a water-pitcher), distinguish from **your** (possessive of YOU).
ewes (female sheep), distinguish from **Hughes** (a surname), **use** (to employ).
ex-alt', not *exhalt.*
ex-as'per-ate, not *exasparate.*
ex-ceed', not *excede.*
ex-cel' *doubles* the *l* in the participles **ex-celled'**, **ex-cel'-ling** and in the derivatives **ex'cel-lence**, **ex'cel-len-cy**, **ex'cel-lent.**
ex-cept' (to omit; leave out), not *exept.* Distinguish from **ac-cept'** (to take when offered), which see.
ex-cess (surplus; overplus), distinguish from **ac'cess** (approach; passage).
ex-cise', not *excize.*
ex-cise'man, not *excizeman.*
ex-cite', not *exite.* This word retains the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant, as in **ex-cite'ment**, but *drops* it before a vowel, as **ex-cit'a-ble**, not *exciteable.*
ex-claim', not *exclame* or *exclaime,* forms now obsolete.
ex-cres'cence, not *excresence.* See -ENCE, p. 8.
ex-cus'a-ble, not *excuseable.* See -ABLE, p. 5.
ex'e-cut"er (one who executes), distinguish from **ex-ec'u-tor** (a trustee). See SUFFIXES, p. 8-9.
ex'er-cise, not *exercize.* See EXORCISE.
ex-hale' *drops* the final *e* in forming the participles **ex-haled'**, **ex-hal'ing**, and the adjective **ex-hal'able.**
ex-hib'i-tor, not *exhibiter.*
ex-ist'ence, not *existance.* See -ENCE, p. 8.
ex of-fi'ci-o. A Latin phrase pronounced as if written *ex ofishio.*
ex'or-cise (to cast out), distinguish from **ex'er-cise** (activity).
ex-pan'sible, not *expansable.*
ex-pe'di-ent, not *expediant.* See -ENT, p. 8.

ex-pel' *doubles* the *l* in forming the adjective **ex-pel'la-ble** and the participles **ex-pelled', ex-pel'ling.**

ex-pense', not *expence.*

ex-pe'ri-ence, not *experiance.* See -ENCE, p. 8.

ex-pire' *drops* the final *e* in forming the adjective **ex-pir'-a-to-ry**, the noun **ex"pi-ra'tion**, and the participles **ex-pired', ex-pir'ing.**

ex"pla-na'tion, not *explaination.*

ex-plic'it, not *explisit.*

ex-plore' *drops* the final *e* in forming the nouns **ex"plo-ra'tion** and **ex-plor'er**, and the adjectives **ex-plor'a-tive, ex-plor'a-to-ry**, and the participles **ex-plored', ex-plor'ing.**

ex-po'nent, not *exponant.* See -ENT, p. 8.

ex-pose' *drops* the final *e* in forming the participles **ex-posed'** and **ex-pos'ing.**

ex"po-sé'. Note that this French word has three syllables and that the final *e* is accented.

ex-press'i-ble, not *expressable.* See -IBLE, p. 9.

ex-pul-sion, not *expulshon.*

ex'qui-site, not as commonly mispronounced, *ex-quiz'it.*

ex-tem'po-rize, not *extemperize.*

ex-ten'si-ble, not *extensable.* See -IBLE, p. 9.

ex-tent', not *extint.*

ex-tol *doubles* the *l* in forming the participles **ex-tolled', ex-tol'ling**, and the noun **ex-tol'ler.**

ex-tra'ne-ous, not *extranious.*

ex-tra'ne-ous-ly, not *extraniously.*

ex-traor'di-nary, not, as commonly pronounced, *extror-dinary.*

ex"u-da'tion, not *exudeation.*

eye'ing, rather than **ey'ing** which is permissible.

eyes (the organs of vision), distinguish from **ayes** (plural of **aye** used in indicating an affirmative vote).

F

f. This letter is used to indicate two sounds in English: the first, that heard in *fish, off*, etc.; the second, that heard in *of, thereof, whereof*, etc. Various other combinations are used to indicate the first sound as *ph* (*ph*otograp*h*) and *gh* (cou*gh*, trou*gh*, lau*gh*, etc.). In English usage the word "lieutenant" is pronounced as if spelled *leftenant.*

fa-ba'ceous, not *fabacious.*

fa"çade', not *fasade*. Note that the word is from the French, and the *c* takes a cedilla beneath it, *ç*.

face (the visage; countenance), distinguish from **faze** (to vex; worry; disturb).

fac'et, not *faset*. The participles are written **fac'et-ed** or **fac'et-ted**; **fac'et-ing** or **fac'et-ting**.

fac'et (a triangular cut of a diamond or other gem), distinguish from **fas'set** (obsolete form of FAUCET).

fa-ce'tious, not *faceteous*.

fa-cil'i-tate, not *facillitate*.

fa-cil'i-ty, not *facillity*.

fac-sim'i-le. The plural of this word is formed by adding *s*: **fac-sim'i-les**, not *facsimilies*.

fac'ul-ty *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural **fac'ul-ties**.

fade'a-ble, not *fadable*. See -ABLE, p. 5.

Fah'ren-heit. Note that there are two *h*'s in this German name.

fa-ience', not *fayence*.

fain (anxious; desirous), distinguish from **fane** (a sanctuary; a temple), and **feign** (to dissemble).

faint (fatigued; timid), distinguish from **feint** (pretended attack).

fair (clear, just), distinguish from **fare** (diet; passage-money; a passenger).

fair'y *changes y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **fair'ies**.

fak'er (a deceiver or swindler), distinguish from **fa-kir'** (Mohammedan ascetic).

fal'con. The *l* in this word is silent. See L.

fal'li-ble, not *fallable*. See -IBLE, p. 9.

falls (cascade; also, tumbles), distinguish from **false** (untrue), and **faults** (imperfection; defects).

fa-mil'iar-ism, not *familiarizm*.

fa-mil'iar-ize, not *familiarise*. This verb *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **fa-mil'iar-ized**, **fa-mil'iar-iz"ing**, and in **fa-mil'iar-i-za'tion**.

fane. See under FAIN.

fan-tas'tic, not *phantastic*, a form no longer generally current.

fan'ta-sy, not *phantasy* a 17th century spelling.

fare (diet; also, passage-money), distinguish from **fair** (clear; just).

fare'well, not *fairwell.*
fa'ro (a game of cards), distinguish from **Pha'raoh** (a king of Egypt).
far'ri-er (one who shoes horses), distinguish from **fur'ri-er** (one who deals in or dresses furs).
far'ther (more distant), distinguish from **fa'ther** (a male parent), and from **fur'ther** (signifying additional).
fas'ci-a, not *facia* or *fashia.*
fas'ci-nate, not *facinate.*
fate (destiny, fortune), distinguish from **fête** (a festival, feast).
fa'ther (a male parent), distinguish from **far'ther** (more distant).
fau'cet, not *fasset, fawcet, forset* or *fosset.*
faults (defects), distinguish from **false** (untrue), and **falls** (does fall).
fa'vor, fa'vour. Both forms are in use for the root-word and its derivatives. The first is preferred in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.
faze (to worry; disturb; vex), distinguish from **face** (the visage), and from **phase** (the view that anything presents to the eye).
fears (past participle of fear), distinguish from **fierce** (savage).
fea'si-ble, not *feasable.* See -IBLE, p. 9.
feat (a notable act), distinguish from **feet** (plural of FOOT).
feath'er, not *fether,* as it is pronounced.
feaze (to vex, annoy, worry), distinguish from **feeze** (to tighten by twisting).
Feb'ru-a-ry, not *Febrary.*
feign (to dissemble), distinguish from **fain** (anxious; desirous) and **fane** (a sanctuary; a temple). See GN.
feint (pretend attack), distinguish from **faint** (fatigued).
feld'spar" is preferred to *felspar.*
fel'ler (one who cuts down), distinguish from **fel'loe** (a wheel rim) and **fel'low** (an associate).
fence, not *fense.*
fenc'i-ble, not *fensible.* See -IBLE, p. 9.
feoff'ment. Note the spelling of the first syllable of this word which is pronounced as if spelt *fef.*
fer-ment' (excitement, ebullition), distinguish from **fo-ment'** (to encourage).
fer'ri-age, not *ferryage.*
fer'tile. Pronounced as if spelt *fertil.*

fer'til-ize, not *fertilise.*
fer'til-iz"er, not *fertiliser.*
fe'tid, not *fœtid.* Both forms are in use but the first is preferred to-day.
fe'tish, not *fetich* or *fetisch* now obsolete.
fête (a festival; a deed), distinguish from **fate** (destiny; fortune).
fi'ber, fi'bre. Both forms are in use; the first prevailing in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.
fic-ti'tious, not *ficticious.*
fief (land held under feudal tenure), distinguish from **thief** (a robber).
fierce (savage), distinguish from **fears** (does FEAR.)
fier'y, not *firey* or *firy.*
fil'i-gree, not *filagree* or *filligree,* both obsolete forms to-day.
fil'lip (to snap with the fingers), distinguish from **Phil'ip** (a man's name).
fil'ter (a strainer), distinguish from **phil'ter** (a love charm).
fin"an-cier, not *financeer.*
find (to discover), distinguish from **fined** (punished by fine).
fine'ness (the quality of being fine), distinguish from **fi-nesse'** (artifice), not *finess.*
fir (a type of tree), distinguish from **fur** (the coat covering the skin of an animal).
first (earliest; foremost), distinguish from **thirst** (a longing for a drink).
fish'er (one who catches fish), distinguish from **fis'sure** (a crack).
Fismes. A French town captured by the United States troops from the Germans in 1918. Note that it is pronounced as if written *feem.*
Fi-u'me. Note that each syllable is pronounced—not *fume.*
flag *doubles* the *g* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **flagged** and **flag'ging.**
flage'o-let, not *flajolet.*
flare (a large bright light), distinguish from **flay'er** (one who flays).
fla'vor, fla'vour. Both forms are in use for this root-word and its derivatives; the first prevails in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

flea (an insect), distinguish from **flee** (to run away).
flew (past tense of FLY), distinguish from **flue** (a chimney).
flex'i-ble, not *flexable.* See **-IBLE,** p. 9.
flex'or (a contracting muscle), distinguish from **flex'ure** (a bending).
fli'er, fly'er. Both forms are in use, the second being preferred in England.
flight. Note that the *gh* is silent. See GH. Not *fleight.* Compare HEIGHT.
flocks (groups of sheep or birds), distinguish from **phlox** (a flowering plant).
flot'sam, not *flotsame* or *flotsome.*
flour (ground wheat), distinguish from **flow'er** (a blossom).
flue (a chimney), distinguish from **flew** (past tense of FLY).
flu'o-rid, flu'o-ride. Both forms are in use.
fo'cus. This word has an English plural formed by adding *es,* **fo'cus-es,** and a Latin one in which *i* is substituted for *us,* **fo'ci.**
fo'cus (*v.*). The participles of this verb are written: **fo'cused** or **fo'cussed, fo'cus-ing** or **fo'cus-sing.**
fo'li-o. The participles of this verb are formed by adding to the root-word *-ed* for the past participle **fo'li-oed,** and *-ing* for the present participle, **fo'li-o-ing.**
folk. Note that the *l* is retained in the spelling of this word, but it is not heard when the word is spoken. See L.
fo-ment' (to instigate, encourage), distinguish from **fer-ment'** (excitement, ebullition).
fond'ling (caressing), distinguish from **found'ling** (a child found).
fo-net'ic. See PHONETIC.
fool'har-dy. The *y* changes to *i* before suffixes beginning with a consonant: **fool'har″di-ly, fool'har″di-ness.**
for (a preposition), distinguish from **fore** (leading) and **four** (a number).
force *drops* the *e* before *-ible* in forming the adjective **for-ci-ble,** not *forceable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
fore-go', **for-go'.** Both forms are used but the first is preferred in the United States for both meanings (1) to precede; (2) to go without. In Great Britain they are differentiated.
fore-go'ing, not *forgoing.*
for'eign, not *forin* as it is pronounced. Note that the *g* is silent. See G.

fore-stall, not *forstall.*
for'feit, not *forefit.* See EI.
for-get' *doubles* the *t* in forming the present participle **for-get'ting,** and the past participle **for-got'ten.**
forg'ing, not *forgeing.*
forgoing. Misspelling of FOREGOING.
form'al-ly (in a formal way), distinguish from **for'mer-ly** (some time ago).
for'mu-la, not *formala.* The plural is spelled **for'mu-las** or **for'mu-læ.**
for-sake' *drops* the *e* before *-ing* in forming the participle **for-sak'-ing.** The past participle is **for-sak'en.**
for-sook', not *forsaked.*
fort (a defensive work), distinguish from **forte** (one's strong point; strong; loud).
forth (away, out, abroad), distinguish from **fourth** (next after third).
for'ty, not *fourty.*
fos'sil-ize, not *fossilise.*
foul (impure, clogged, unfair), distinguish from **fowl** (a bird).
foul *doubles* the *l* in forming the adverb **foul'ly.**
found'ling (a deserted child of unknown parentage), distinguish from **fond'ling** (caressing).
four (a number), distinguish from **for** (a preposition), and **fore** (leading).
fowl (a bird), distinguish from **foul** (impure; clogged; unfair).
foy"er', not *fwoyer* as frequently mispronounced.
frag'ile, not *fragil.*
frail, not *frale.*
fraise (a defense of pointed stakes as in a rampart; also, a pan cake), distinguish from **frays** (fights; quarrels), **phrase** (a group of two or more words).
Fran'ces (a woman's name), distinguish from **Fran'cis** (a man's name).
fran'chise, not *franchize.*
frat'er-nize, not *fraternise.*
fraught, not *frought.*
frays. See under FRAISE.
freak, not *freek, freik* or *friek.*
freeze (congeal, injure), distinguish from **frieze** (coarse woolen cloth; also, a projecting cornice).
fret *doubles* the *t* in the participles **fret'ted, fret'ting.**

fri'ar (a brother or monk in a religious order), distinguish from **fri'er** (one who or that which fries).

fric"as-see', not *frickassee.*

frieze (a coarse woolen cloth; also, a decorated cornice), distinguish from **freeze** (congeal; injure with cold).

frizette, not *frizzette.*

fron-tier', not *fronteer.*

fron'tis-piece, not *frontespiece.*

frow'zy, not *frouzy.*

fruit, not *froot* or *frute.* See UI.

fuch'sia. A word, derived from the name of Leonard *Fuchs*, a German botanist, and pronounced as if spelt *fewsha.*

-ful (suffix, denoting "abounding in"), distinguish from **full** (containing all that can be held). Note that the first is used always in solid compounds as *artful, beautiful, cupful, spoonful*, denoting, when used in the plural *cupfuls, spoonsfuls*, one cup or one spoon filled as many times as directed. The second is used separately as in "cups *full*," "spoons *full*," denoting more than one cup or spoon *full.*

ful-fil', ful-fill'. Both forms are in use but the first is preferred. The Anglo-Saxon form was *ful+fyllan.*

ful-fil' *doubles* the final *l* in the participles **ful-filled', ful-fil'ling**, but the noun **ful-fil'ment** is written also **ful-fill'ment.**

ful'ness, full'ness. Both forms are in use but the first prevails and is etymologically correct. See FULFIL.

ful'some, not *fullsome.*

fu'mi-gator, not *fumigater.*

fun'gous (spongy; also, bearing fungi), distinguish from **fun'gus** (a plant).

fun'gus. The plural is **fun'gi** or **fun'gus-es.**

fun'ny, final *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added: **fun'ni-er, fun'ni-est, fun'ni-ly.**

fur (skin of an animal), distinguish from **fir** (a kind of tree).

fur *doubles* the *r* in forming the participles **furred, fur'ring.**

fur'ri-er (a dealer in or dresser of furs), distinguish from **far'ri-er** (one who shoes horses).

furs (the coats covering the skins of beasts), distinguish from **furze** (a wild spiny shrub).

fur'ther (additional; in addition), distinguish from **far'-ther** (as applied to distance).

fu"sel-age' (the framework of an air-plane), not *fusilage.*

fu'si-ble, not *fusable* or *fuseable.* See -IBLE, p. 9.

fu'sion, not *fuzion.*

fuss (a tumult; unnecessary bustle), distinguish from **fuzz** (fine particles of down).

fust (a moldy smell), distinguish from **first** (earliest; foremost).

fu'tile, not *futil* as pronounced.

fuzz (to fly out in particles), distinguish from **fuss** (to fret; worry).

G

g. In English *g* has two sounds: (1) *hard* (*a*) before *a, o, u,* and sometimes *e* and *i* [See (2) below] or a consonant, as in "garden," "get," "gelding," "gift," "gild," "good," "gun," "ghastly," "great," etc., (*b*) when medial, as in "dagger," "digger," "digging," "figure," etc., (*c*) when final, as in "bag," "beg," "big," "bog," "bug," "egg;" (2) *soft* before *e,* sometimes before *i* [See 1 (*a*) above], and *y,* as in "age," "gaol," "gem," "geology," "gin," "gist," "gymnasium," "gyroscope," etc. The letter *g* is sometimes silent as in *poignant, poignancy, sign, phlegm, gnostic.* See GH, -ING, and NG.

Gael (a Scottish Highlander), distinguish from **gale** (a storm).

gag *doubles* the final *g* in forming the participles **gagged** and **gag'ging,** and the noun **gag'ger.**

gage (a pledge; a type of plum), distinguish from **gauge** (to measure). The latter is often spelt **gage** in the United States.

gai'e-ty, gay'e-ty. Both forms are in use but the first is more frequent.

gait (a manner of walking), distinguish from **gate** (an entrance).

Gal'i-lee (a region of the Holy Land), distinguish from **Ga"li-le'i** (an Italian astronomer, usually called **Gal"i-le'o**).

Gal"i-le'an, not *Galileean* or *Gallilean.*

gal'i-pot (a resin or pitch), distinguish from **gal'li-pot** (a small earthenware jar, as for jam or medicine).

gall (bile; bitterness), distinguish from **Gaul** (a native of ancient Gaul; also, a Frenchman).

gal'le-on (a merchant-ship), distinguish from **gal'lon** (a liquid measure).
gal'ler-y changes *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **gal'ler-ies.**
gal'ley. The plural is formed by adding *s;* **gal'leys,** not *gallies.* **Gal-lip'o-li,** not *Galippoli.*
gal-loon', takes two *l*'s even if derived from the Spanish *galon,* that has only one.
gal'va-nism, not *galvanizm.*
gam'ble (to play for money), distinguish from **gam'bol** (to cut capers or dance and skip playfully).
gan'grene, not *gangreen.*
gangue (a non-metallic mineral), distinguish from **gang** (a group or squad). Both words are pronounced alike.
gant'let' (a form of punishment in which the victim runs between rows of men who strike him), distinguish from **gaunt'let** (glove).
gape, not *gap.*
gard. See under GUARD.
gar'goyle, not *gargoil.*
gar'ish, not *gareish.*
gar"nish-ee'. The participles of this verb are written **gar"nish-eed', gar"nish-ee'ing.** They may be divided also **gar"ni-sheed', gar"ni-shee'ing.**
gas'o-line is preferred to *gasolene.*
gas-tri'tis, not *gastretis.*
gate (an entrance), distinguish from **gait** (a manner of walking).
gauge (a measuring implement), distinguish from **gage** (a pledge; also, a kind of plum). See GAGE.
Gaul (an ancient country of northwestern Europe; also, a Frenchman), distinguish from **gall** (imprudence; bile; bitterness).
gauze (a light open-woven fabric), distinguish from **gorse** (furze).
gaz"et-teer', not *gazzetteer,* even if derived from the Italian *gazzetta.*
geese. Plural of GOOSE. See PLURALS, p. 13.
gen'der, not *jender,* as it is pronounced—the *g* being soft. See G.
gen'er-al is a word of three syllables: not *genral* as frequently mispronounced. See G.
gen"er-al-is'si-mo always takes two *s*'s.
gen"er-a-li'za-ble, not *generalisable.*

gen″er-al-i-za′tion, not *generalisation.*

gen″er-al-ize, not *generalise.*

gen′er-al-ly is a word of four syllables but is frequently curtailed to three by careless speakers: not *genrally.* See G.

gen′er-ous is a word of three syllables when correctly pronounced: not *genrous.* See G.

gen′ius (mental powers), distinguish from **ge′nus** (a kind).

gen-teel′ (polite), distinguish from **Gen′tile** (one not a Jew) and **gen′tle** (mild; meek).

ge′nus (a kind), distinguish from **gen′ius** (mental powers).

ge-og′ra-phy. Note the first two syllables of this word which is very frequently mispronounced. See G.

Geor″gette′ (a feminine personal name), distinguish from **geor″gette′** or **geor′get′** (a light dress-fabric).

ges′ture (a posture), distinguish from **jes′ter** (one who jokes).

ges′ture, not *jesture* as pronounced. The final *e* is dropped in forming the participles **ges′tured, ges′tur-ing.**

get. The past participles of this verb are irregular: **got** or **got′ten, get′ting.** *Gotten* still heard occasionally in the United States is seldom heard in southern England.

gey′ser, not *geysir* or *gyzer* as it is pronounced.

gh. Initial *gh* is *g* proper as in *go, ghastly, ghost,* etc.; but after a vowel is used often for the Anglo-Saxon continuous *h,* and is then silent as in *light, night;* when final, is sounded like *f,* as in *cough, laugh, tough.* As a guttural this digraph was formerly heard in England; it is still heard in some parts of Scotland and Ireland in such words as *bought, fought, lough,* etc. Medial and final *gh* are silent in the same syllable, as in *throughout, slough* (a quagmire). In *hough* the digraph *gh* has the sound of "k," *hock.*

ghast′ly, not *gastly.*

gher′kin, not *gurkin* as pronounced. See GH.

ghost, not *gost* as pronounced. See GH.

giaour, not *jaur* as pronounced.

gib. There are three verbs so spelt but the first, to supply with a gib-foresail or fasten it, and the second, to balk, as a horse, are pronounced as if written *jib;* the third is pronounced as spelt *gib.* All three double the *b* in forming the participles **gibbed, gib′bing.** See JIB.

gibe, pronounced *jibe,* a spelling sometimes seen.

Gi-bral'tar, not *Gibralter*.

gild (to cover thinly with gold), distinguish from **guild** (a corporation or society). See GUILD.

gilt (overlaid with gold), distinguish from **guilt** (crime, sin).

gim'bal, not *gimbel*.

ging'ham, not *gingam*. Note that the *h* is silent. See H.

gin'ger, not *jinger* as it is pronounced.

gip'sy, not *gypsy*. To form the plural change *y* to *i* and add *es*, **gip'sies**.

gi-raffe', not *jiraf* as it is pronounced.

gist, not *jist* as it is pronounced.

give *drops* the *e* in forming the present participle, **giv'ing**.

gla'cier (a field of ice), distinguish from **gla'zier** (one who puts in glass).

glair (the white of an egg), distinguish from **glare** (a dazzling light).

glam'our, not *glamor*. This word, like *chancellor*, has successfully withstood efforts at simplification to which *armor*, *councilor*, *favor*, *harbor*, *labor*, etc. have yielded.

Glas'gow, not *Glascow*.

glis'ten, not *glisen* as it is pronounced. Note that the *t* is silent. See T.

glo'ry changes *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural **glo'ries**, and to form the adjective change *y* to *i* and add *-ous*, **glo'ri-ous**.

glos'sa-ry, not *glossery*.

glu'a-ble, **glue'a-ble**. Both forms are in use. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

glue *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **glued**, **glu'ing**.

glut *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **glut'ted**, **glut'ting**.

glut'i-nous (sticky), distinguish from **glut'to-nous** (greedy).

glyc'er-in or **glyc'er-ine**, not *glyserin*.

gm, **gn**. In English words *g*, retained before *m* or *n* in spelling, is silent in pronunciation; as in the words **gnarl**, **gnarled**, **gnash**, **gnat**, **gnaw**, **gneiss**, **gnome**, **gnostic**, **gnu**, **phlegm**, etc.

gnaw (to eat away by degrees), distinguish from **nor** (neither).

gnome (a goblin, elf, or sprite), distinguish from **nome** (**1.** A term in algebra. **2.** The name for a province in Greece).

gnu (a South African antelope), distinguish from **knew** (past tense of know), and **new** (recent; lately made).

gon'do-lier', not *gondoleer*.

good"-by', **good"-bye**. Both forms are in use. Contracted from *God be with you*.

goose (a web-footed bird), has a plural that is formed irregularly: **geese**. See RULES, p. 13. Distinguish from **goose** (a tailor's smoothing iron), the plural of which is formed by adding *s*, **goos'es**.

gored (pierced with a horn or spear), distinguish from **gourd** (a melon-like fruit or plant).

gor'geous, not *gorgious*, even if derived from the Old French *gorgias*, gaudy.

go-ril'la (an ape), distinguish from **guer-ril'la** (an irregular soldier).

gor'mand, **gour'mand**. Both forms are in use but the first is the more common.

gor'mand-ize, not *gourmandise*.

gos'sa-mer, not *gossomer*.

gov'ern-or, not *governer* or *guvenor*.

gov'ern-ment, not *goverment*.

grab *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **grabbed**, **grab'bing**, and the noun **grab'ber**.

grain (a kernel; also, a particle, as of sand), distinguish from **graine** (a silkworm's egg).

gram, **gramme**. Both forms are in use but the first prevails.

gram'mar, not *grammer*.

gram'ma-phone (a written symbol, as a letter, indicating a sound; a phonetic sign), distinguish from **gram'-o-phone** (a protected trade-mark name for a phonograph).

gran'a-ry, not *grainery*.

grand. Many persons who use this word in compounds that denote relationship erroneously fail to pronounce the *d*, as in **grand'fa"ther**, **grand'moth'er**, which they render as if spelt *granfather*, *granmother*.

grand'er (more grand), distinguish from **gran'deur** (magnificence).

grate (a basket-like framework of bars for fuel; also, harsh irritating), distinguish from **great** (big; eminent).

grate (*v.*) *drops* the *e* in forming the participles **grat'ed, grat'ing.**

grate'ful, not *greatful.* See -FUL.

grat'er (a kitchen utensil with rough surface), distinguish from **great'er** (larger).

gra-va'men. A law term, derived from the Latin, of which the plural is formed irregularly, by dropping *en* and adding *ina,* **gra-vam'i-na.**

grave *retains* final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant, **grave'ly, grave'ness.**

grav'el. The participles of this verb are written **grav'eled** or **grav'elled, grav'el-ing** or **grav'el-ling.**

gray, grey. Both forms are in use; the first prevails in the United States; the second is current in Great Britain.

graz'er (an animal, as a sheep, that feeds on grass), distinguish from **gra'zier** (one who pastures or deals in cattle).

grease (animal fat), distinguish from **Greece** (a country of Southern Europe).

greas'y changes *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **greas'i-er, greas'i-est.**

great, great'er. See under GRATE; GRATER.

greave (a bushy bough, or grove), distinguish from **grieve** (to afflict with sorrow) and **grieve** (a steward; farm-bailiff). Compare GRIEF.

greaves (leg armor protecting knee to ankle), distinguish from **grieves** (laments).

Green'wich. A place-name variously pronounced: in the United States, *Green'witch*; in Great Britain, *Green'itch.*

gren"a-dier', not *grenadeer.*

gren"a-dine', not *grenadeen* as it is pronounced.

grew (did GROW), distinguish from **grue** (to grieve, pain, or shudder).

grew'some. Obsolete form of GRUESOME.

grey. See under GRAY.

grey'hound", not *grayhound.*

grid'dle *drops* the *e* in forming the participles **grid'dled, grid'dling.**

grief *retains* the final *f* in forming the plural, and the letter *s* is added, **griefs.** See RULE, p. 9.

grieve *drops* the final *e* before *-ance,* **griev'ance,** and in forming the participles **grieved, griev'ing.**

grieves. See under GREAVES.

grin *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **grinned, grin'ning.**

grind. The past tense of this verb is **ground,** not *grinded.*

grip *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **gripped, grip'ping.**

grip (to grasp), distinguish from **gripe** (to give pain to). Originally both words meant "to grasp; seize," but the modern tendency is to make the distinction noted above.

gris'ly (fearful; horrible), distinguish from **grist'ly** (cartilaginous), and **griz'zly** (grayish).

gris'tle, not *grissel* as it is pronounced. Note that the *t* is silent. See T.

groan (a moaning cry as of one in pain), distinguish from **grown** (increased as in age or size).

groat (a former English coin worth four-pence), distinguish from **Grote** (a family name) and from **grot** (a grotto or cavern).

gro'cer (a dealer in groceries), distinguish from **gross'er** (coarser; larger; ruder). The two words are derived from a common source—the *grocer* originally dealing in goods in large bulk.

grom'et, grom'met, frequently pronounced **grum'met,** which is an alternative form. Of the three forms the second prevails in the United States; the first and third being used in Great Britain.

grov'el. The participles of this verb are written **grov'eled** or **grov'elled, grov'el-ing** or **grov'el-ling.**

grow. The past participle of this verb is formed irregularly by adding *n* to the root-word: **grown,** not *growed.* The present participle is **grow'ing;** the imperfect tense is **grew.**

grub *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **grubbed, grub'bing,** and the noun **grub'ber.**

grudge *drops* the *e* in forming the participles **grudged, grudg'ing.**

grue. See under GREW.

grue'some, not *grewsome* or *grusome.*

gua'no, not *gwano* as it is pronounced.

guar"an-tee' (to be responsible for), distinguish from **guar'an-ty** (a responsibility). The distinction noted here is not always observed and the words have been used interchangeably. Note that there is only one *r* in these words, and that the *u* is silent as it is also in words in which it is followed by another vowel.

guar'an-tor", not *guarrantor.*

guard (a protector; watchman; also, to watch), distinguish from **gard** (a garden, yard; gravel, also, trimming or binding).

guer-ril'la (an irregular soldier), distinguish from **gor-il'la** (an ape).

guess, not *gess* as it is pronounced, even if derived from the Middle English *gessen*. See G.

guessed (did GUESS), distinguish from **guest** (a person who is entertained).

guide *drops* the *e* in forming the participles **guid'ed, guid'ing,** and the noun **guid'ance.**

guild (a corporation or society), distinguish from **gild** (to cover thinly with gold).

guilt (criminality; wickedness), distinguish from **gilt** (overlaid with gold).

guimpe, not *gimp* or *gamp* as it is pronounced.

gui-pure', not *gipure.*

gulf, not *gulph.*

gul'li-ble, not *gullable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

gum *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **gummed, gum'ming,** the adjective **gum'my,** and the noun **gum'mi-ness.**

gun *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **gunned, gun'ning,** and the noun **gun'ner.**

gun'wale, not *gunnel* or *gunwhale.* The word is a compound of *gun* and *wale*, a plank.

gut *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **gut'ted, gut'ting.**

gut'ter (a waterway at a roadside), distinguish from Latin, *guttur* (the throat).

gut'tur-al, not *gutteral.*

gym-na'si-um forms the plural by adding *s* in English, and changes *um* to *a* in Latin, **gym-na'si-a.**

gy-ro-scope, not *ji'roscope* as it is pronounced.

H

h. In English this letter is little else than an aspiration before the vowel that follows it. It is used as a single letter always represented by *h* in common spelling. Initial *h* is silent in many words, as in *heir, honest, honor, hour*, etc. It is silent also (1) after the letter *r*, as in *catarrh, myrrh, rhapsody, rhetoric, rhinoceros, rhubarb*, etc.; (2) when preceded by a vowel, as in *ahl*

bah! oh! (3) when medial, as in *shepherd* and in certain English proper names, as in *Balham, Chatham, Clapham, Durham,* etc.; and (4) in England, generally when preceded by *w,* as in such words as *while, when, whet, where,* which are uniformly pronounced *wile, wen, wet, wear.* Formerly, the initial *h* of certain other words, as *herb, history, hostler, hospital, humble, humor,* was not pronounced, but the letter has returned to favor and is now heard in these words. See W.

ha'be-as cor'pus, not *habias corpus.*

ha-bit"u-é'. Pronounced as if spelt *habichuey.*

hæm'or-rhage. Classic form of HEMORRHAGE.

hag'gard, not *haggerd.*

hail (frozen rain; a call), distinguish from **hale** (healthy).

hair (the growth of filaments covering the head), distinguish from **hare** (a rabbit-like animal with a cleft upper-lip), and **heir** (one who inherits from another).

half changes *f* to *v* and *es* is added to form the plural, **halves.** Note that the *l* is silent in this word and its derivatives and compounds. See L.

hall (a large room, a passageway), distinguish from **haul** (to drag or shift).

hal-lo' (a call; hail), distinguish from **hal'low** (holy).

hand'ker-chief *retains* the final *f* with *s* added to form the plural **hand'ker-chiefs,** not *handkerchieves.*

hand'some (pretty), distinguish from **han'som** (a two-wheeled cab).

hap'py. The *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added. **hap'pi-er, hap'pi-est, hap'pi-ly, hap'pi-ness.**

ha-rangue'. Note that the *ue* is silent. See UE.

har'ass, not *harras*—a common error. Distinguish this word from **em-bar'rass** which is spelt with two *r*'s.

har'ass forms its participles by adding *-ed* and *-ing,* **har'assed, har'ass-ing.**

har'bor, har'bour. Both spellings are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

har'bor (a port of refuge), distinguish from **ar'bor** (a bower or shaded nook of trees).

har'dy changes *y* to *i* before a suffix; as, **har'di-er, har'di-est, har'di-hood, har'di-ly, har'di-ness.**

hare. Distinguish from HAIR and HEIR.

hare'lip", not *hair-lip.*

har'mo-nize *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **har'mo-nized, har'mo-niz'ing.**
har'mo-ny changes *y* to *i* before a suffix; as, **har-mon'ic, har-mo'ni-ous, har'mo-nist, har'mo-nize,** etc.
harras. Misspelling of HARASS.
hart (a stag or male deer), distinguish from **heart** (an organ of the animal body).
hate *retains* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant, **hate'ful.**
haugh'ty changes *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in the comparative and superlative degrees, **haugh'ti-er, haugh'ti-est** and before *-ly* and *-ness*, **haugh'ti-ly, haugh'ti-ness.** In all these words the *gh* is silent. See GH.
haul (to transport; drag), distinguish from **hall** (a large room; also, a passageway), and compare ALL; AWL.
haunch, not *hanch* as sometimes pronounced.
haunt, not *hant* as sometimes pronounced.
hav'oc, not *havock.*
hay (dried grass), distinguish from **hey** (an exclamation).
haz'ard, not *hazzard.*
head, not *hed* as pronounced, the *a* being silent in this word and all its derivatives. See EA, p. 75.
heal (to cure), distinguish from **heel** (the back part of the foot).
heap, not *heep* as it is pronounced.
hear (to listen to), distinguish from **here** (in this place).
heard (did HEAR), distinguish from **herd** (a drove).
hearse (a vehicle for the dead), distinguish from **herse** (a lattice or grating).
heart. Distinguish from HART.
hearth, not *harth.*
heat, not *heet.*
heath, not *heeth.*
hea'then, not *heethen.*
heave, not *heev* or *heve.*
heave *drops* the final *e* in forming the participles **heaved, heav'ing.**
heav'en, not *heven.*
heav'y, not *hevy.*
heel. Distinguish from HEAL.
heif'er, not *hefer* as pronounced.
height, not *heighth*—a common error. See GH.
hei'nous, not *haynous* or *heynous.* See EI, pp. 7 and 76.

heir (an inheritor), distinguish from **air** (atmosphere). Note that the *h* is silent. See H and compare HARE.
he'li-o-trope, not *heeliotrope.*
hel'le-bore, not *hellibore.*
Hel'le-nize, not *Hellenise.*
hem'or-rhage, not **hæm'or-rhage** (its classic form now in use only in scientific work) or *hemorrage.*
herd (a drove), distinguish from **heard** (did HEAR).
here (in this place), distinguish from **hear** (to listen to).
her"e-dit'a-ment, not *heriditament* or *heraditiment.*
he-red'i-ta-ry, not *heredatery.*
herse. Distinguish from HEARSE.
hes'i-tate, not *hezitate.*
hew (chop, work out laboriously), distinguish from **hue** (shade of a color; also, an outcry), and **Hugh** (a man's name).
hic'cup, hic'cough. Both forms are in use but the first prevails. See COUGH.
hide (conceal), distinguish from **hied** (hastened to).
hie (to hasten), distinguish from **high** (elevated; lofty).
hie. The past participle of this verb is **hied**, the present participle is spelt **hie'ing** or **hy'ing**, but the first prevails.
hied. Distinguish from HIDE.
high. In this word and all its derivatives the *gh* is silent. See GH.
higher (taller), distinguish from **hire** (wages for service).
him (a pronoun, the objective case of HE), distinguish from **hymn** (a song of praise).
hin'der (to check; impede), distinguish from **hind'er** (pertaining to the rear). The words are spelt alike, but divided and pronounced differently.
Hindoo, Hin'du. Both forms are in use but the second is preferred.
hip *doubles* the *p* in the participles **hipped, hip'ping.**
hip"po-pot'a-mus, not *hipopotamus*, the word being from the Greek *hippos*, horse and *potamos*, river.
hire. Distinguish from HIGHER.
his (belonging to HIM), distinguish from **hiss** (the sound made by a serpent).
his'to-ry, a word of three syllables, not *histry*, a vulgarism due to careless pronunciation.
hoar (white; frost), distinguish from **hoer** (one who uses a hoe).

hoard' (a store, as of money), distinguish from **horde'** (a rabble).
hoard'ing (a wooden fence), not *hording.*
hoarse (harsh), distinguish from **horse** (a draft animal).
hoe *retains* the *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, **hoe'ing.**
hoes (the plural of HOE, a garden implement), distinguish from **hose** (rubber tubing, or stockings).
hog *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **hogged, hog'ging.**
hogs'head, not *hogshed.*
hole (an opening), distinguish from **whole** (entire, complete).
holm (an evergreen oak; also, low lying land), distinguish from **home** (a dwelling-place; abode).
ho'ly (hallowed; sacred) *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **ho'li-er, ho'li-est.** Distinguish from **whol'ly** (entirely).
home. Distinguish from HOLM.
home'stead, not *homested.*
hom'o-nym, not *homonyme.*
hon'est. One of four parent words in English in which the initial letter is not heard when the words are spoken: the other three being **heir, honor, hour.**
hon'or, hon'our. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. In this word, and its derivatives, the *h* retained in the spelling is never heard when the words are spoken. See HONEST.
hon'or-a-ry (conferring honor), distinguish from **on'er-a-ry** (suited for bearing burdens).
hoof *retains* the *f* in forming the plural and the letter *s* is added, **hoofs,** not *hooves.*
hoop (a circular band), distinguish from **whoop** (a shout; hoot).
hope (*v.*) *drops* the *e* in forming the participles **hoped, hop'ing.**
hope (*n.*) *retains* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant: **hope'ful, hope'less.**
horde (a rabble; a gang as of pirates or savages), distinguish from **hoard** (accumulate).
hor'rible, not *horrable.* See -IBLE, p. 9.
horse. Distinguish from HOARSE.
hose. Distinguish from HOES.
ho'sier-y, not *hosery.*

hos'tler. Note that the *t*, and sometimes the *h*, is silent. Compare OSTLER, and see H and T.

Hou'din (a French conjuror), distinguish from **Hou'di-ni** (an American master magician and author).

hour (a period of sixty minutes), distinguish from **our** (belonging to us). See under HONEST.

house *drops* the *e* in forming the participles **housed, hous'ing.**

hov'el. The participles of this verb are written **hov'eled** or **hov'elled, hov'el-ing** or **hov'el-ling.**

hov'er, not *huver* as it is pronounced.

hue (a shade of a color; also, a clamorous cry), distinguish from **hew** (chop; work out laboriously) and **Hugh** (a man's name).

Hughes (a surname), distinguish from **ewes** (female sheep), and **use** (to utilize).

hu'man (pertaining to man or mankind), distinguish from **hu-mane'** (showing kindness or tenderness).

hum'bug″ *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **hum'-bugged″, hum'bug″ging.**

hu'mor-ous, not *humerous.*

hur'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* when *-ed* is added: **hur'ried.**

hy″dro-pho'bi-a, not *hydraphobia.*

hy'gi-ene, not *hygene.*

hymn. Distinguish from HIM.

hy-per'bo-la (a plane curve in geometry), distinguish from **hy-per'bo-le** (exaggeration or overstatement).

hyp'o-crite, not *hippocrite* or *hypocrit.*

hy″po-der'mic, not *hyperdermic.*

hy-pot'e-nuse, not *hypothenuse,* a misspelling introduced in 1571, corrected in 1674, restored in 1704, recorrected in 1834, then followed a reversion to the misspelling finally corrected in 1893.

hy-poth'e-cate, not *hypothacate.*

I

i. This letter is used to represent several sounds in English as *i* in "hit," "pin"; "lie," "isle"; "machine," "police."

-ible, a suffix used to form adjectives from words derived from the Latin having stems that are not *a* stems; as, *credible, flexible, forcible,* etc. Compare -ABLE.

ice *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **iced, ic'ing.** See ICY.

i'ci-cle, not *icycle.* Compare BICYCLE.
ic'y *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ly* in **ic'i-ly** and before *-ness* in **ic'i-ness.**
i'de-o-graph (a picture; symbol), distinguish from **i'di-o-graph** (a private or trade-mark).
id"i-oc'ra-sy, not *ideocracy.*
id"i-o-syn'cra-sy, not *ideosyncracy.*
i'dle (inactive, lazy), distinguish from **i'dol** (an image of worship) and **i'dyl** (a short poem).
i'dol-ize, not *idolise.* The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **i'dol-ized, i'dol-iz"ing.**
il-leg'i-ble, not *illedgeable* or *illedgible.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
il-lic'it (unlawful), distinguish from **e-lic'it** (to draw out).
Il"li-nois'. Note that the last syllable is pronounced as if spelt *noy,* the *s* being silent.
il-lude' (to cheat; deceive), distinguish from **elude'** (to avoid). See ALLUDE.
il-lu'sion (unreal image), distinguish from **al-lu'sion** (reference to), and from **e-lu'sion** (evasion by artifice).
il-lus'tri-ous, not *illustreous.*
im'age, not *imidge* as pronounced. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **im'aged, im'ag-ing.**
im-ag'i-na-ry, not *imaginery.*
im'be-cile, not *imbecil* as pronounced.
im-bro'glio, not *imbroleo* as pronounced. The *g* is silent. An Italian word meaning a perplexing state of affairs or plot.
im-brue' (to wet, drench or soak into), distinguish from **im'-bue'** (to absorb or dye deeply). Both verbs drop the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **im-brued', im-bru'ing; im-bued', im-bu'ing.**
im'i-table, not *imitatable.* See -ABLE, p. 5.
im'i-tate, not *immitate.*
im'ma-nence (the state of being inherent), distinguish from **im'mi-nence** (the state of impending).
im'ma-nent (inherent), distinguish from **im'mi-nent** (impending). Compare EMINENT.
im-me'di-ate *retains* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant: **im-me'di-ate-ly.**
im-mense' *retains* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant: **im-mense'ly, im-mense'ness,** but *drops* it before *-ity,* **im-men'si-ty.**

im-merse' (to dip or plunge into a liquid, as water), distinguish from **e-merse'** (to cause to come to the surface of a liquid).

im-merse' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in the participles **im-mersed', im-mers'ing.**

im'mi-grant (one who moves into a country), distinguish from **em'i-grant** (one who moves out of a country).

im'mi-grate (to move *into* one country from another), distinguish from **em'i-grate** (to move *out of* one country into another). Note that the first word has two *m*'s, but the second only one.

im'mi-nence. Distinguish from IMMANENCE. See -ENCE, p. 8.

im'mi-nent (impending, threatening), distinguish from **em'i-nent** (famous; prominent), and from **im'ma-nent** (inherent).

im-mis'ci-ble, not *imissible.* See -IBLE, p. 9.

im-mor'tal-ize, not *immortalise.*

im-mor"tal-i-za'tion, not *immortalisation.*

im-mov'a-ble, not *immoveable.* See -ABLE, p. 5.

im-mune' *drops* the *e* before *-ization, -ize,* and *-izing* in **im-mu"ni-za'tion, im-mun'ize, im-mun'ized,** and **im-mun'iz-ing.**

im-pair', not *impare.*

im-pair'ment, not *imparement.*

im-pale', im-pale'ment. Alternative forms of **em-pale', em-pale'ment** which are preferred.

im-pan'el. The participles of this verb are written **im-pan'eled** or **im-pan'elled, im-pan'el-ing** or **im-pan'el-ling.** See EMPANEL.

im-pass'a-ble (not passable), distinguish from **im-pas'-si-ble** (incapable of feeling or emotion). See -ABLE, p. 5.

im-pe'dance, not *impedence.* See -ANCE, p. 5.

im-pel' *doubles* the *l* in forming the participles **im-pelled', im-pel'ling.**

im"per-cep'ti-ble, not *imperceptable.* See -IBLE, p. 9.

im-pe'ri-al (pertaining to an emperor), distinguish from **em-pyr'e-al** (heavenly; refined).

im-per'il *does not* double the *l* in forming the participles **im-per'iled, im-per'il-ing.**

im-per'me-a-ble, not *impermiable.* See -ABLE, p. 5.

im-per'ti-nence, not *impertinance.* See p. 8.

im'pi-ous, not *impeous.*

im-ply' changes *y* to *i* and adds *ed* in forming the past participle **im-plied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **im-ply'ing.**

im-pose' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **im-posed'**, **im-pos'ing**, and in the adjective **im-pos'a-ble.**

im-pos'tor (a trickster), not *imposter*. Distinguish from **im-pos'ture** (a trick).

im-press'i-ble, not *impressable*. See -IBLE, p. 9.

im"pro-vise', not *improvize*.

im-pugn', not *impune* as it is pronounced. Note that the *g* is silent in this word and its derivatives **im-pug'na-ble, im-pugn'er**, etc. Compare CONDIGN, ENSIGN. *Impugn* is derived from the Latin *in*, against, and *pugno*, fight.

im'pulse *drops* the *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel.

im-pu'ni-ty, not *impugnity*. This word is derived from the Latin *in*, not, and *pœna*, punishment. Compare IMPUGN.

in (amidst; among), distinguish from **inn** (a tavern; hotel; public house).

in"as-much' should always be written as one word. Compare IN SO FAR.

in-bred', not *inbread*.

in-breed' *drops* one *e* in forming the past participle and the past tense **in-bred'**, but *retains* both in **in-breed'ing.**

in"can-des'cence, not *incandesence*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

in-case', en-case'. Both forms are used but the first is preferred.

in-cense' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-censed'**, **in-cens'ing.**

in'cho-ate. The *ch* in this word and its derivatives is pronounced as *k*. Compare CH.

in'cide", (to cut into; also, to fall upon), distinguish from **in'side"** (within).

in'ci-dent, not *incedent* or *insident*, obsolete forms.

in-cip'i-ent (in the first stage), distinguish from **in-sip'i-ent** (stupid; foolish). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

in-cise', not *insize*. This parent word *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-cised', in-cis'ing**, and before *-ive, -ively, -iveness*, as **in-ci'sive, in-ci'sive-ly, in-ci'sive-ness.**

in-ci'sion (the act of cutting into), distinguish from **in-si'tion** (the act of engrafting). The first is from the Latin *in*, into, and *cædo*, cut; the second, from *in*, in and *serere*, sow, plant.

in-cite' (stir up, stimulate), distinguish from **in'sight** (understanding, penetration).

in-close', en-close'. Both forms are in use but the first prevails in the United States; the second is preferred in England except in legal and statutory language relating to enclosed waste-lands.

in-com'pa-ra-ble, not *incompareable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

in"com-pat'i-ble, not *incompatable.* See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.

in-com'pe-ten-cy, not *incompatency.*

in"con-test'a-ble, not *incontestible.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

in"cor-rupt'i-ble, not *incorruptable.* See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.

in-creas'a-ble, not *encreaseable.*

in-crease', not *encrease.*

in-cred'i-ble, not *incredable.* See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.

in-crust', not *encrust.*

in'cu-bus, not *incubous.*

in-cum'brance, not *incumberance.* Alternative form of ENCUMBRANCE. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

in-cur' *doubles* the *r* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-curred', in-cur'ring.**

in-cur'a-ble, not *incureable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

in-debt'ed. Note the *b* which is silent in this word and its derivatives. Compare DEBT.

in"de-fat'i-ga-ble, not *indefatigueable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

in"de-fea'si-ble, not *indefeasable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

in-del'i-ble, not *indelable.* See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.

in-dem'ni-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **in-dem'ni-fied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **in-dem'ni-fy"ing.**

in"de-pen'dence, not *independance.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

in"de-pen'dent, not *independant.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

in"de-struc'ti-ble, not *indestructable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

In"di-an-ap'o-lis, not *Indiannapolis.*

in'di-ca"tor, not *indicater.*

in-dict' (to charge with crime), distinguish from **in-dite'** (to write).

in-dict'ment (a formal charge of crime), distinguish from **in-dite'ment** (the putting into words or writing).
in"dis-creet' (imprudent), distinguish from **in"dis-crete'** (compact).
in"dis-pen'sa-ble, not *indispensible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
in-dis'pu-ta-ble, not *indisputeable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
in-dite' (to write), distinguish from **in-dict'** (to charge with crime).
in-dite'ment. Distinguish from INDICTMENT.
in"di-vis'i-ble, not *indivisable*. See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.
in-dorse', in-dorsed', in-dors'ing. The spelling formerly (following the medieval Latin) and still preferably used in law and commerce; literary use has more commonly followed Middle English analogy and favored the variant form ENDORSE, which see.
in-dorse'ment *preferred* in commerce to **en-dorse'ment**. See INDORSE.
in-duce' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-duced', in-duc'ing**, but *retains* it before *-ment*, **in-duce'ment**.
in-duc'i-ble, not *induceable*. See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.
in-duc'tance, not *inductence*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
in-duc'tor, not *inducter*.
in-dulge' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-dulged', in-dulg'ing**.
in-dul'gence, not *indulgeance*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
in-el'i-gi-ble, not *inelegible* or *inelligible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
in-fal'li-ble, not *infallable*; so also **in-fal'li-ble-ness, in-fal"li-bil'i-ty**, and **in-fal'li-bly**. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
in-fer *doubles* the *r* in forming the participles **in-ferred', in-fer'ring**.
in-fer'a-ble, in-fer'ri-ble. Both forms are in use but the first is preferred. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
in'fer-ence, not *inferance*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
in-fir'ma-ry, not *infirmery*.
in-flame' *drops* the *e* and *doubles* the *m* in forming the adjectives **in-flam'ma-ble, in-flam'ma-to-ry**, and the noun **in"flam-ma'tion**.
in-flat'er, in-fla'tor. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails.
in-flex'i-ble, not *inflexable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
in'flu-ence, not *influense*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
in-fold', en-fold'. Both forms are in use equally favored.

-ing. A participial ending before which verbs that end in *e* (as *love*), usually drop the final *e*. See RULES and compare GUARANTEE.

in-gen'ious (clever, skilful), distinguish from **in-gen'u-ous** (free, open).

ingine. Misspelling of ENGINE.

in-graft'. Alternative form of **en-graft'.**

in-grain'. Alternative form of **en-grain'.**

in'grate, not *ingreat.*

in-hal'a-ble, not *inhaleable.*

in-hale' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-haled', in-hal'ing.**

in-here' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-hered', in-her'ing.**

in-her'ence, not *inherance.*

in-her'i-tance, not *inheritence.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

in-her'it-ed, not *inheritted.*

in-her'i-tor, not *inheriter.*

in-her'i-tress or **in-her'i-trix,** not *inheritoress.*

in-hu'man (not according to human form, nature, or intelligence), distinguish from **in"hu-mane'** (lacking compassion; destitute of feeling).

in-im'i-ta-ble, not *inimitible* or *inimittable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

in'ju-ry changes *y* to *i* when a suffix is added, **in'ju-ries, in-ju'ri-ous.**

in-laid', not *inlayed.* Compare LADE and see RULES.

inn (a public house, tavern, hotel), distinguish from **in** (amid; among).

in'no-cence, not *innocense.*

in"nu-en'do. The plural of this word is formed by adding *s* or *es.*

in-quir'a-ble, not *inquireable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

in-quire', en-quire'. Both forms are in use, and *drop* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-quired', in-quir'ing; en-quired', en-quir'ing.**

in-quir'y *changes* the *y* to *i* and *-es* is added in forming the plural, **in-quir'ies.**

in-sens'i-ble, not *insensable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

in'sert (that which is inserted, as a page in a book), distinguish from **in'set** (that which is set in, as a gem in a mount).

in'side" (within), distinguish from **in'cide"** (to cut into).

in'sight" (understanding; penetration). Note that *gh* is silent (see GH), and distinguish from **in-cite'** (stir up; stimulate).

in-sip'i-ent (stupid; foolish), distinguish from **in-cip'i-ent** (in the first stage). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

in-sis'tence, not *insistance.*

in-sis'tent, not *insistant.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

in-si'tion (the act of grafting), distinguish from **in-ci'-sion** (to cut into).

in so far should always be written as three words. Compare INASMUCH.

in'so-late (to expose to the sun's rays), distinguish from **in'su-late** (in electricity, to separate one from other conducting bodies).

in"so-la'tion (the act of exposing to the sun), distinguish from **in"su-la'tion** (the act of separating conducting bodies). See INSOLATE.

in-spire' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-spired', in-spir'ing,** and also before *-able, -ation,* and *-atory,* as in **in-spir'a-ble, in"spi-ra'tion, in-spir'a-to-ry.**

in-sta'ble. Archaic form of UNSTABLE. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

in-stall', not *instal;* but **in-stal'ment** or **in-stall'ment** are both in use, the first being preferred.

in"stal-la'tion, not *instalation.*

in'stance (an example), not *instence.* Distinguish from **in'stants** (moments).

in-stead', not *insted.* See EA., p. 75.

in-stil' *doubles* the *l* in forming the participles **in-stilled', in-stil'ling,** and before *-ation* in forming the noun **in"stil-la'tion.**

in'su-lar, not *insuler.*

in-sure' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-sured', in-sur'ing.**

Originally *assure* but used by Chaucer as *ensure* ("Legend of Good Women," l. 2115). *Insure* is merely a variant spelling of ENSURE employed in commercial use in referring to life insurance, in which sense *ensure* is now entirely obsolete.

in'te-ger, not *intejer* as it is pronounced. The word is from the Latin *in,* not, and *tango,* touch.

in-tem'per-ance, not *intemperence.*

in-tem'per-ate, not *intemprate.*

in-ten'dance, not *intendence.* This word means "business management," and has nothing to do with what one may *intend,* and must therefore not be confused with it. Compare SUPERINTENDENCE.

in-tense' (extreme), distinguish from **in-tents'** (intention; purposes).

in-ten'sion (straining; stretching), distinguish from **in-ten'tion** (determination).

in-ter (to bury), distinguish from **en'ter** (to go in). **Inter** *doubles* the *r* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-terred', in-ter'ring.**

in"ter-cede', not *interceed.* This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in"ter-ced'ed, in"ter-ced'ing.**

in"ter-change' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in"ter-changed', in"ter-chang'ing,** but *retains* it before *-ability, -able, -ableness, -ably,* as **in"ter-change"a-bil'i-ty, in"ter-change'a-ble,** etc.

in"ter-fere', not *interfear.* This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in"ter-fered', in"ter-fer'ing,** and before *-ence* in forming the noun **in"ter-fer'ence.**

in"ter-mit' *doubles* the final *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in"ter-mit'ted, in"ter-mit'ting.**

in"ter-mit'tent, not *intermittant.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

in-tern', in-terne'. Both forms are in use.

in-ter'ro-ga"tor, not *interrogater.*

in-trench'. The form used chiefly in the military sense. See ENTRENCH.

in'tri-ca-cy, not *intricasy.*

in-trigue' *drops* the *e* before *-ed, -er,* and *-ing* in forming the past participle **in-trigued',** the noun **in-trigu'er,** and the present participle **in-trigu'ing.**

in"tu-mesce' (to swell; expand), not *intumess.*

in"tu-mes'cence, not *intumesense.*

in'va-lid, not *invalide.*

in-val'u-a-ble, not *invalueable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

in-vei'gle, not *inveegle* as it is commonly pronounced. See EI.

in-vent'i-ble, not *inventable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

in'ven-to"ry, not *inventary.*

in-vis'i-ble, not *invisable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

i-ras'ci-ble, not *irasible.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

ir"i-des'cence, not *irridescence.*
ir"i-des'cent, not *irridescent.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
i'ron, not spelt as pronounced *i'ern.*
ir-rep'a-ra-ble, not *irrepairable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
ir"re-sist'i-ble, not *irresistable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
ir"re-spon'si-ble, not *irresponsable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
ir-re-triev'a-ble, not *irretreveable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
ir-rup'tion (a bursting or rushing in), distinguish from **e-rup'tion** (a bursting out).
i'sin-glass, not *izinglass.*
is'land. Note that the *s* is silent when the word is pronounced.
isle (an island), distinguish from **aisle** (a passageway).
-ism. A suffix, usually pronounced as if spelt *-izm,* denoting act, condition, doctrine, or idiom.
i-sos'ce-les, not *isosiles.*
is'su-ance, not *issueance.*
is'sue *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **is'sued, is'su-ing.**
isth'mus, pronounced as if spelt *ismus,* the *th* being silent.
i-tal'i-cize, not *italisize.* This verb *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **i-tal'i-cized, i-tal'i-ciz"ing.**
i'tem-ize, not *itemise.* This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **i'tem-ized, i'tem-iz"ing.**
i-tin'er-a-ry, not *itinary* or *itinery.*
its (possessive case of IT), distinguish from **it's** 'a contraction of "it is").

J

j. In English the sound of this letter is represented by: (1) *j,* initial and medial, as in *jam, ajar,* etc. (2) *g, ge, gi, gg,* as in *gender, gill,* etc., *age, college,* etc., *pigeon, religion, exaggerate,* etc. (3) *dg,* as in *judge, ridge,* etc. (4) *di, de,* as in *soldier, grandeur, verdure,* etc.
jab *doubles* the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **jabbed, jab'bing.**
jag *doubles* the *g* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **jag'ged, jag'ging.**
jam (a sweet conserve of fruit; also a crush), **jamb** (a side-post as of a doorway). Note that the *b* in **jamb** is silent when the word is pronounced. See B.

jan'i-tor, not *janiter*.
jar"di"nière', not *jardineer* or *jardinier*.
jeal'ous, not *jelous* as it is pronounced. See EA.
jeop'ard-ize, not *jeopardise* used by some English writers but not accepted as standard.
Jes'se (a man's name), distinguish from **Jes'sie** (a woman's name).
jest'er (one who jokes), distinguish from **ges'ture** (a motion with the hand).
jet'sam, not *jetsome* or *jetsum*.
jew'eled, jew'elled; jew'el-ing, jew'el-ling; jew'el-er, jew'el-ler. All forms are in use; the first prevailing in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
Jew'ry (the Jewish people), distinguish from **ju'ry** (men sworn in to try a law suit and render a verdict).
Jews (Hebrews), distinguish from **juice** (vegetable or animal fluid).
jib (a triangular sail), distinguish from **gib** (to balk, as a horse).
Jo-han'nes-burg (a city in South Africa), not **Johannisberg** (a village on the Rhine).
join'ter (a carpenter's tool for planing the edges of boards), distinguish from **join'ture** (a settlement at law made on a woman instead of dower).
joist, not *joyst*.
joule (a unit of electrical energy), distinguish from **jowl** (the cheek or jaw).
judge *drops* final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **judged, judg'ing.**
judg'ment, judge'ment. Both forms are in use but the first prevails.
jug'gler (one who performs tricks of legerdemain), distinguish from **ju'gu-lar** (one of the veins of the neck).
juic'y, the *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added, as **juic'i-er, juic'i-est, juic'i-ness.**
ju'ror, not *jurer*, Compare PERJURER.
ju'ry. Distinguish from JEW'RY.
jus'ti-fy. Final *y* is changed to *i* before *-able* and *-ed*, **jus'ti-fi"a-ble, jus'ti-fied.**
jut *doubles* the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **jut'ted, jut'ting.**
ju've-nile, not *juvenil* as pronounced.

K

k. In modern English this letter is used to replace ambiguous *c* before *e*, *i*, *y*, etc. It is silent before *n*, as in *knife*, *knowledge*, etc. In this book *k* is used: (1) For *k* in the common spelling, as in *brakeman*, *kangaroo*, *skate*, *kitten*, *Koran*, *taking*, etc. (2) For *c* when it has the sound of *k*, as in *cake*, *cur*, *cure*. (3) For *ch*, as in *anarchy*, *chemistry*. (4) For *ck*, as in *black*. See C. *K* is used also to transliterate *k* and *kh* from strange languages.

kaf'fir, kaf'ir. Both forms are in use.

Kai'ser (the German form of *Cæsar*), distinguish from **Kay'ser** (a family name).

kale, not *kail*, a variant form now seldom used.

ka-lei'do-scope, not *kalidoscope*.

kal'en-dar. A variant form of **cal'en-dar** not now used.

kalsomine. Misspelling of **calcimine.**

ka'ty-did, not *catydid*.

kau'ri (a tree of New Zealand), distinguish from **cow'ry** (a shell used in Africa as money).

keel (a lengthwise timber in the frame of a ship), distinguish from **Kiel** (a Prussian seaport).

keep (to retain) is spelt the same way as **keep** (the chief tower of a castle).

Kelt, Kelt'ic. Alternative forms of **Celt, Celtic** which are more frequently used.

kept, not *kep*, a vulgar mispronunciation.

ke-ram'ic, ke-ram'ics. Alternative forms of **ce-ram'ic, ce-ram'ics** which are more frequently used.

kerb, kerb'stone. Alternative forms of **curb, curb'-stone** which are more frequently used.

ker'nel (the heart of a nut), distinguish from **colo'nel** (a regimental commander).

ker'o-sene, not *kerosine*.

ketch (a strongly built two-masted vessel), distinguish from **catch** (to seize).

Kew (a town on the Thames, England), distinguish from **cue** (**1.** A hint. **2.** A long straight rod used in billiards. **3.** A tail as of hair. **4.** A long line of persons).

key (**1.** An instrument for opening a lock. **2. An islet**), distinguish from **quay** (**a wharf**).

kha'ki, not *kahki* or *khakee*.

kha'lif. Alternative form of **ca'lif.**

khe-dive', not *kedeev* or *khidive.*

kid'naped" or **kid'napped, kid'nap'ing** or **kid'nap"ping.** Both forms are in use, the second being etymologically correct.

kid'nap-er or **kid'nap-per.** Both forms are in use.

kid'ney *does not* change final *y* to *i* in forming the plural, but adds *s:* **kid'neys,** not *kidnies.*

Kiel. Distinguish from KEEL.

kill (to slay), distinguish from **kiln** (an oven or furnace for baking, drying, or burning products) in which the *n* is silent.

Kim'ber-ley, not *Kimberly.*

klep"to-ma'ni-a. Preferred form of **clep"to-ma'ni-a.**

kn. When used at the beginning of a word the *k* of this digraph is silent. See SILENT LETTERS and K.

knag (a knot in wood), distinguish from **nag** (a small horse). See K and KN.

knap (**1.** To break short. **2.** A cracking noise as of something breaking. **3.** The crown of a hill), distinguish from **nap** (**1.** To take a short sleep. **2.** A short sleep. **3.** The surface fibers of flannel or woolen goods). The verbs *double* the *p* in forming the participles.

knave (a rascal; a rogue), distinguish from **nave** (**1.** The main body of a church. **2.** The hub of a wheel), and from **na-ive'** (ingenuous), and from.

knead (**1.** To mix as dough. **2.** To operate upon), distinguish from **need** (want, poverty).

knee, kneel, knell, knife, knit, knob, knock, knot, know, knowl'edge, knuckle, etc. In all these words and those that follow the *k* is silent. See K and KN.

knew (past tense of KNOW), distinguish from **new** (modern; of recent origin), **gnu** (a South African antelope).

knick'er-bock"ers, initial *k* is silent—not *nickerbockers.*

knife, *changes* the *fe* to *ves* in forming the plural, **knives.**

knight (a champion, as one bred to the profession of arms), distinguish from **night** (the period when the sun is below the horizon).

knit (to weave), distinguish from **nit** (the egg of an insect).

knit *doubles* the *t* in **knit'table, knit'ted, knit'ter, knit'ting.** Note that the *k* is silent. See K and KN.

knob *doubles* the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **knobbed, knob'bing.** Note that the *k* is silent. See K and KN.

knot (entanglement; also, a nautical mile), distinguish from **not** (the adverb of negation).

know (to understand), distinguish from **no** (negative).

knows (having knowledge), distinguish from **noes** (plural of NO), and **nose** (the organ of smell).

L

1. In English this letter usually indicates its own sound, as in *late, lever, live, love*, etc., but it is silent when used in a certain number of words in combination with *a*, and strengthens it, as in *alms, balm, palmistry, psalmist, balk, calk, walk*, etc. Formerly silent in *holm*, it is now indicated as pronounced by modern lexicographers, yet in *folk* it still remains silent.

This letter is suppressed in some other words, as *almond, calf, calve, chaldron, falcon, fulfil, halser, half, halve, malmsey, salmon, salve* (noun, but not in the verb), *solder, talbot* (a hound); also in the three kindred words *could, should* and *would*.

la'bel. The participles of this verb are written **la'beled** or **la'belled, la'bel-ing** or **la'bel-ling.**

labor, la'bour. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. So also with all its derivatives.

lab'o-ra-to"ry, not *labratory* as spelled and spoken by the careless. The word is from the Latin *labor*, work, and the suffix *-oria* (Eng., *-ory*), signifying the "place" or "thing where."

lab'y-rinth, not *labarynth, labirynth*, or *laborinth*.

lac (a gum or tree-sap), distinguish from **lack** (want).

lach'es (neglect), distinguish from **latches** (plural of *latch*, a fastening for a door).

lacks (needs), distinguish from **lax** (loose, yielding).

lac'quer, not *lacker*.

la-crosse', not *lacross*.

lade (to load; ladle), distinguish from **laid** (placed).

la'dy *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural **la'dies**, but *retains* it before *-hood, -ism, -like*, and *-ship* in **la'dy-hood, la'dy-ism, la'dy-like, la'dy-ship.**

lain (past participle of LIE, to rest), distinguish from **lane** (a narrow way or path).

lair (a den or sleeping place of a wild animal), distinguish from **lay'er** (a stratum, courses or coat).

lamb. Note that the *b* is silent in this word and its derivatives. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2 and B.

lam'bre-quin, not *lambrekin* as it is pronounced.

land'lord". Commonly mispronounced as if spelt *lanlord.*

lane. Distinguish from LAIN.

lan'guage (speech), distinguish from **lan'guish** (to become weak or faint).

lan'guor, not *langer* as it is pronounced.

Lans'downe, not *landsdown.*

lap *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **lapped', lap'ping.**

laps (wraps; licks), distinguish from **lapse** (to become void).

lapse *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lapsed, laps'ing,** and before *-able* in the adjective **laps'a-ble.**

lar'va (a caterpillar or grub), distinguish from **la'va** (melted volcanic rock).

lar'va. The plural of this noun is written **lar'væ** or **lar'vas.**

lar'ynx. The *x* in this word is dropped in writing the plural and *-ges* is added, **laryn'ges,** a Greek plural adopted in English; also, in its derivatives **laryn'ge-al, lar"yn-gi'tis.** These are all words formed from the Greek.

las-civ'i-ous, not *lasivious* as it is pronounced.

latch'es (it does latch or close), distinguish from **lach'es** (neglect).

lat'er (at a subsequent time), distinguish from **lat'ter** (the second of two things).

lat'tice, not *lattis* as it is pronounced. In the verb the *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in the participles **lat'ticed, lat'tic-ing.**

laud (praise highly), distinguish from **lord** (a title of veneration or nobility).

laud'a-ble, not *laudible* or *lordable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

lau'da-num, not *lodanum.*

laugh, laugh'a-ble, laugh'er, laugh'ing, laugh'ter. The *ugh* in these words is pronounced as *f.* See GH and RULES and the SUFFIXES, pp. 5, 7, and 9.

launch, not *lanch* as it is pronounced.

laun'der, laun'der-er, laun'dress, laun'dry, laun'dry-man. Note the spelling of the first syllable of these words which is sometimes pronounced as if spelt *lan-* or *lorn-*.

laun'dry *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural, **laun'dries.**

lawn (fine linen; also, a grass-covered plot), distinguish from **lorn** (forsaken).

lax (loose; yielding), distinguish from **lacks** (needs).

lay *drops* the *y* and adds *-id* in forming the past participle **laid,** but *retains* it and adds *-ing* in forming the present participle, **lay'ing.**

lay'er (a course, stratum, or row), distinguish from **lair** (the den or sleeping-place of a wild beast).

la'zy *drops* the *y* in forming the comparative and superlative degrees **la'zi-er, la'zi-est,** and before *-ly* and *-ness* in **la'zi-ly, la'zi-ness.**

lea (a meadow), distinguish from **lee** (opposite to the wind).

leach (to wash by draining), distinguish from **leech** (to bleed with leeches).

leach, not **letch** which is a British spelling.

lead (to guide by drawing along), distinguish from **lead** (to cover, fasten, fix, or separate with lead), because the past tense of the first is **led** and of the second, **lead'ed.**

lead (a metal), distinguish from **led** (guided by drawing).

leads (conducts), distinguish from **Leeds** (a town in Yorkshire, England).

leaf (a part of a plant; something flat and thin, as a page of a book), distinguish from **lief** (willingly, freely).

leaf, in forming the plural *changes* the *f* to *ves,* **leaves.** See IRREGULAR PLURALS, p. 14, sec. 3.

leak (an opening), distinguish from **leek** (a vegetable).

lean (**1.** To bend or incline from an erect position. **2.** Thin, lank), distinguish from **li'en** (a legal claim on property).

leap'er (one who jumps), distinguish from **lep'er** (one who has leprosy).

lease (a contract), distinguish from **leash** (three of a kind; also, a line or thong to hold a hunting-dog), and **lees** (dregs, settlings).

lease *drops* the final *e* before *-able,* **leas'a-ble.**

leased (past tense of LEASE), distinguish from **least** (smallest).

leave (to allow to stay in any place or condition), distinguish from **leave** (to put forth leaves), because the past participle of the first is **left** and of the second, **leaved.**

leave (permission), distinguish from **lieve** (willingly).

leaves. Plural of LEAF.

led. Distinguish from LEAD.

lee. Distinguish from LEA.

Leeds. Distinguish from LEADS.

leek. Distinguish from LEAK.

lees. Distinguish from LEASE.

leg *doubles* the *g* in forming the adjectives **legged, leg'gy** and the noun **leg'ging,** which is used chiefly in the plural **leg'gings,** not *leggins.*

le'gal-ize. not *legalise.*

leg'i-ble, not *legable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

le-git'i-mate, not *legitamate.*

Leices'ter, not *Lester* as pronounced.

Leip'zig, not *Leipsic.*

lei'sure, not *leesure, leezur,* or *lezur* as it is pronounced.

le'man (a sweetheart), distinguish from **lem'on** (a bright yellow acid fruit).

leop'ard, not *lepard* as it is pronounced. Distinguish from LEPER.

lep'er (one who suffers from leprosy), distinguish from LEAPER.

lese"-maj'es-ty, not *leez-majesty* as it is pronounced. In French **lèse-majesté,** pronounced *lays"-ma"jes"tay'.*

less'en (to reduce), distinguish from **les'son** (an exercise to be studied).

less'er (smaller; inferior), distinguish from **les'sor** (one who grants a lease).

let'tuce (a vegetable), distinguish from **Let'tice** (a woman's name).

lev'ee (**1.** An embankment. **2.** A reception), distinguish from **lev'y** (a call for money or troops, as by a government).

lev'el. The participles of this verb are spelt **lev'eled** or **lev'elled, lev'el-ing** or **lev'el-ling,** and the noun derived from it is spelt **lev'el-er** or **lev'el-ler.**

li'ar (one who utters falsehoods), distinguish from **li'er** (one who lies down), and **lyre** (a musical instrument).

li'bel. The derivatives of this verb are all spelt in two ways, as follows: **li'bel-ant** or **li'bel-lant, li'beled** or **li'belled, li'bel-ing** or **li'bel-ling, li'bel-er** or **li'bel-ler, li'bel-ous** or **li'bel-lous.**

lib'er-al-ize, not *liberalise* or *libralize.*

li'bra-ry, not *liberary* or *libry.* In forming the plural change *y* to *i* and add *es,* **li'bra-ries.**

lice. Plural of LOUSE. See IRREGULAR PLURALS, p. 13.

li'cense, not *licence.* Compare ADOLESCENCE.

li'chen (a flowerless rock-plant), distinguish from **lik'en** (to represent as similar).

lick'er (one who licks), distinguish from **liq'uor** (intoxicating beverage).

lic'o-rice (the root of a herb or its sweet juice used in medicine), distinguish from **lick'er-ish** (appetizing; tempting; dainty).

lie (an untruth) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* in the past participle **lied,** but changes form entirely in the present participle **ly'ing,** NOT *lieing.* Distinguish from **lye** (an alkaline solution).

lief. Distinguish from LEAF.

lien. Distinguish from LEAN.

li'er. Distinguish from LIAR and LYRE.

lieu (in place or instead), distinguish from **loo** (a game).

lieve (willingly), distinguish from **leave** (permission).

light'en-ing (**1.** The adding of light to. **2.** The relieving of weight), distinguish from **light'ning** (a flash of light due to atmospheric electricity).

lik'a-ble, like'a-ble. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

limb (an arm or leg), the *b* is silent. See B. Distinguish from **limn** (to draw or paint).

lim'ber, not *limbre.* Compare TIMBER, TIMBRE.

li"mou"sine', not *limowzene;* a French word derived from *Limousin,* a former central province of France.

limph. Misspelling of LYMPH.

Lin'coln. Note that in this name the second *l* is silent.

lin'e-a-ment (a feature or distinguishing mark or outline), distinguish from **lin'i-ment** (a medicament for external application). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

lin"ge-rie. A word adopted from the French, but pronounced as if spelt *lanjeree.*

links (**1.** The parts of a chain. **2.** A golf-course), distinguish from **lynx** (a cat-like wild beast).

liq'ue-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *-ed* in forming the past participle **liq'ue-fied,** but *retains* the final *y* in the present participle **liq'ue-fy"ing.**

li-queur' (a cordial), distinguish from **liq'uor** (an intoxicating beverage), and from **lick'er** (one who licks).

liq'uo-rice. Alternative form of LICORICE.

lis'ten. Note that in this word and its derivatives the *t* is silent.

li'ter, li'tre. Both forms are in good use. Distinguish **li'ter** (a measure) from **lit'ter** (a number of animals at one birth).

lit'er-a-ry, not *litrary.*

lit"e-ra'ti. Compare with **lit"ter-a-teur'** and note how many *t*'s each word has. The first word is derived from the Latin *literatus* and is the plural which denotes "men of letters"; the second is French and denotes "one who is engaged in literature."

live *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lived, liv'ing.**

live'ly *changes* the *y* to *i* in its derivatives **live'li-er, live'li-est, live'li-hood, live'li-ly, live'li-ness.**

liv'er (one of the internal organs), distinguish from **li'vre** (an old French money of account).

lla'ma (a South-American quadruped with woolly coat). Note the two *l*'s.

lla'no (a treeless plain in South America). Note the two *l*'s.

load (burden; weight), distinguish from **lowed** (past tense of LOW, as cattle).

loaf, in forming the plural change *f* to *ves,* **loaves.**

loan (to lend; also, something lent), distinguish from **lone** (single; solitary).

loath (reluctant; unwilling), distinguish from **loathe** (to detest; dislike).

loathe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **loathed, loath'ing,** and also before *-er, -ful, -ly, -ness* and *-some*—**loath'er, loath'ful, loath'ly, loath'ness, loath'some.**

lob *doubles* the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lobbed, lob'bing.**

lobby *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **lob'bied,** and before *-es* in forming the noun plural, **lob'bies.**

lo'cal (pertaining to some place), distinguish from **lo-cale'** (a locality with reference to its surroundings).

lo'cal-ize, not *localise.*

loch (a lake), distinguish from **lock** (a fastening device for a door).

lode (a metal-bearing vein), distinguish from **load** (a burden).

lode'star", not *loadstar.*

lode'stone", not *loadstone.*

lodge *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lodged, lodg'ing,** and in the noun, **lodg'ment.**

log *doubles* the *g* informing the participles **logged, log'ging,** and the noun **log'ger.**

log'gia, not *loja* as it is pronounced.

lone. Distinguish from LOAN.

lone'ly. The *y* changes to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **lone'li-er, lone'li-est.**

lon-gev'i-ty, not *lonjevity* as it is pronounced.

loo. Distinguish from LIEU.

look (to see), distinguish from **Luke** (a man's name).

loon (a stupid person or a scamp or rogue), distinguish from **lune** (a geometrical figure; also, the moon).

loose (free as from container or restraint), distinguish from **lose** (mislay). See LOSE.

loose *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **loosed, loos'ing,** but *retains* it before *-ly* and *-ness,* as **loose'ly, loose'ness.**

lop *doubles* the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lopped, lop'ping.**

lord (title of veneration, respect and nobility), distinguish from **laud** (praise highly, as in prayer).

lore (learning), distinguish from **low'er** (**1.** To bring down. **2.** To scowl).

lor"gnette', not *lorniette.*

lorn (forlorn; forsaken), distinguish from **lawn** (fine linen; also, a cultivated grass plot in a garden or park).

lose. Distinguish from LOOSE. Note that the past tense of *lose* is **lost** and the present, **los'ing.**

loud (noisy), distinguish from **lowed** (bellowed, as cattle).

louse forms its plural irregularly, **lice.** See IRREGULAR PLURALS, p. 13.

lou'ver (a window, as in a belfry tower), distinguish from **Lou'vre** (an ancient palace, now a museum of science and art, in Paris, France).

love *drops* the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **lov'a-ble.**

love *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **loved, lov'ing,** but *retains* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant, **love'ly** which *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in **love'li-er, love'li-est.**

lowed. Distinguish from LOAD.

low'er (to bring down), spelt the same way as **low'er** (to look angry; scowl) are pronounced differently, the first riming with *mower* (one who mows), the second with *flower* (a blossom).

low'er (**1.** A scowl. **2.** A lesser height), distinguish from **lore** (learning).

loy'al-ty, not *loyality.*

lu'bri-ca"tor, not *lubricater.*

Luke. Distinguish from LOOK.

lu'mi-na-ry, not *luminery.*

Lu'na (the goddess of the moon), distinguish from **lu'nar** (pertaining to the moon).

lunch, not *lunsh* as it is pronounced. See CH.

lunch'eon. Note that the *e* is silent and that *ch* is pronounced as *sh* in the spoken word: not *lunshon.*

lu-nette, not *lunet.*

lunge *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lunged, lung'ing.**

lure *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lured, lur'ing.**

lus'ter, lus'tre. Both forms are in good use.

lux'u-ry changes *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural **lux'u-ries.**

lye (an alkaline solution), distinguish from **lie** (an untruth).

ly'ing, not *lieing.*

lymph, not *lymf* or *limph.* See PH.

lym-phat'ic, not *lymfatic* or *limphatic.*

lynx (a feline wild beast), distinguish from **links** (the parts of a chain; a course used in golf).

Ly"ons', a French city sometimes pronounced as spelt in French, **Ly"on',** *lee"on'.*

lyre (a musical instrument), distinguish from **li'ar** (one who tells untruths).

M

m. This letter is silent before *n* in words derived from the Greek, as in *mnemonic*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.

ma (mama), distinguish from **mar** (to spoil).

mac″a-ro′ni is preferred to **mac″ca-ro′ni** which is the Italian form.

Ma-cau′lay, MacAulay, Ma-cau′ley are family names. The first is that of the English essayist and historian, Thomas Babington *Macaulay*.

mace (**1.** A club-shaped staff of office. **2.** A spice made from nut-meg), distinguish from **maize** (Indian corn or its grain).

mac′er-ate, not *maserate* as it is pronounced. See C.

mach″i-na′tion, not *makination* as it is pronounced.

ma-chine′, ma-chin′ist. Note that the *ch* in these words is pronounced as *sh*. See CH.

mack′er-el, not *mackrel*, as the word is one of three syllables all of which should be sounded in speech.

mad′am (English title of courtesy), distinguish from **ma″dame′** (French equivalent of MADAM). Compare MESDAMES.

made (produced), distinguish from **maid** (any unmarried woman; a domestic servant).

Ma-dei′ra, not *Madiera*—the *e* precedes the *i*.

ma″de-moi-selle′, not *madamosel*.

Ma-don′na, not *Madona*.

Mag′na Car′ta is preferred to **Mag′na Char′ta.**

The name of the Great Charter of English liberty was originally written *Magna Carta* (see *Rolls of Parliament*, 1279, Act I, 224).

mag′nate (a person of importance), distinguish from **mag′net** (a body or implement that exerts magnetic force).

mag′net-ize, not *magnetise*. The word *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mag′-net-ized, mag′net-iz″ing,** and before *-ation*, **mag″-net-i-za′tion.**

mag″ni-fy changes *y* to *i* before *-ed*, in forming the past participle **mag′ni-fied,** before *-able*, in forming the adjective **mag′ni-fi″a-ble,** and before *-er*, in forming the noun **mag′ni-fi″er,** but *retains* it in forming the present participle **mag′ni-fy″ing.**

mahl′stick″ rather than **maul′stick″** which is an alternative spelling not often used.

ma-hog′a-ny, not *mahogony*.

Ma-hom'e-dan, Ma-hom'e-tan. See under MOHAMMEDAN.

maid. Distinguish from MADE.

mai'gre (pertaining to fasting and to food that may be eaten during fasts), distinguish from **mea'ger** (deficient, scanty, thin).

mail (**1.** Arms. **2.** Matter as, letters conveyed by post), distinguish from **male** (masculine).

main (**1.** The ocean. **2.** Chief, principal), distinguish from **mane** (long hair on the neck of some animals, as the horse or lion).

main'prise, main'prize. Both forms are in use in law.

main'te-nance, not *maintainance.*

maize (Indian corn, or its grain), distinguish from **maze** (labyrinth).

male. Distinguish from MAIL.

mal-fea'sance, not *malfeasaunce* (obsolete) or *malfaisance* which is the French form.

ma-lign', not *maline* as it is pronounced. The word is from the Latin *malignus.*

ma-lign'er (one who speaks evil or falsely), distinguish from **malin'ger** (to pretend sickness). A **ma-lin'ger-er** is one who pretends sickness.

mall (a wooden hammer), distinguish from **maul** (beat; bruise).

mal'le-a-ble, not *mallable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

ma-ma', mam-ma' (mother). Both forms are in good use. Distinguish from **mam'ma** (a breast; udder).

mam'mal, not *mamal.*

man (*v.*) *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **manned, man'ning.** See SPELLING, p. 4.

man *changes* to **men** in the plural. See IRREGULAR PLURALS, p. 13.

man'age *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **managed, man'ag-ing** but *retains* it before *-able* in the adjective **man'age-a-ble,** the noun **man'age-a-ble-ness,** the adverb **man'age-a-bly,** and the noun **man'age-ment.**

man'ci-ple, not *mancipal.*

man-da'mus, not *mandemus.*

man'da-ta-ry (an agent), distinguish from **man'da-to-ry** (containing or expressing a command).

man'do-lin or **man'do-line.** Both forms are in good use, but the first is preferred.

man'drel (a shaft or spindle), distinguish from **man'drill** (a baboon).

mane. Distinguish from MAIN.

ma-neu'ver, ma-nœu'vre. Both forms are in use; the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

man'ful *doubles* the *l* before *-ly*, **man'ful-ly.**

man'gel-wur″zel, not *mangle-wortzel.*

man'gy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative degrees, **man'gi-er, man'gi-est.**

ma'ni-ac, not *maniack.*

man'i-kin, not *mannekin.* The French form is *man″ne-quin'.*

Ma-nil'a, not *Manilla.*

ma-nip'u-late *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ma-nip'u-lat″ed, ma-nip'u-lat″ing.**

ma-nip'u-la″tor, not *manipulater.*

man'na (the food of the Israelites in the wilderness), distinguish from **man'ner** (method; also, behavior), and from **man'or** (an estate or tract of land).

man'ni-kin. Alternative form of MANIKIN.

ma-nœu'vre. See MANŒUVER.

man'tel (shelf over a fireplace), distinguish from **man'tle** (a sleeveless cloak). But in architecture *mantle* is used for the shelf above a fireplace.

man″u-fac'to-ry, not *manufactury.*

map *doubles* the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mapped, map'ping.**

man″u-mit' *doubles* the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **man″u-mit'ted, man″u-mit'ting.**

man″u-mis'sion, not *manumition.*

mar (to spoil), distinguish from **ma** (mama).

mar'a-bou (an African stork whose feathers are used for trimming hats, etc.), distinguish from **mar'a-bout** (a North-African Mohammedan hermit or religious devotee).

mar'ble (a variety of stone), distinguish from **mar'vel** (to wonder).

mar'ble *retains* the *e* before *-ize* in forming the verb **mar'ble-ize.**

mar-cel' *doubles* the *l* in forming the participles **mar-celled', mar-cel-ling'.**

mare (a female horse), distinguish from **may'or** (a chief magistrate).

mar″i-o-nette′, not **mar″i-on-nette′** which is the French form.

mark (**1.** A written or other sign, as a dot, line, spot. **2.** A German coin), distinguish from **marque** (a license of reprisal on an enemy at sea).

mar′riage, not *marridge* as it is pronounced. This word *retains* the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **mar′riage-a-ble.**

marque. Distinguish from MARK.

mar′ry *drops* the *y* and takes *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **mar′ried**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **mar′ry-ing.**

Mar″seil-laise′ (the French National hymn), not *Marsellaize.*

mar-seilles′ (a heavy cotton fabric), distinguish from **Mar-seille′** (a French southern seaport).

mar′shal. The participles of this verb are written **mar′shaled** or **mar′shalled, mar′shal-ing** or **mar′shalling.**

mar′shal (an officer), distinguish from **mar′tial** (warlike).

mar′ten (a weasel-like animal), distinguish from **mar′tin** (a bird of the swallow variety).

mar′tial (warlike), distinguish from **mar′shal** (a military officer of high rank).

mar′tin. Distinguish from MARTEN.

mar′vel. The participles of this verb are written **mar′veled** or **mar′velled, mar′vel-ing** or **mar′vel-ling.** The adjective is written **mar′vel-ous** or **mar′vel-lous.**

mas′cu-line *drops* the *e* before *-ity*, **mas″cu-lin′i-ty.** Compare SPONTANEOUS.

mask, masque; mask′er, mas′quer. Both forms of these words are in use. See MASQUERADE.

mas′ki-nonge (a large pike-like fish of North America) is preferred to **mas′ca-longe**

mas″que-rade′, not *maskerade.*

Mas″sa-chu′setts, not *Masachusetts.*

massed (grouped, as troops), distinguish from **mast** (an upright spar in a ship).

Mas′sil-lon, Ohio, not *Masilon.*

mas′ti-cate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mas′ti-cat″ed, mas′ti-cat″ing.**

mast. Distinguish from MASSED.

mat *doubles* the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mat′ted, mat′ting.**

Mat'a-wan (a borough in the State of New Jersey), distinguish from **Mat'te-a-wan** (a village in the State of New York).

mate, in the sense of "joined" is spelt the same way as **mate**, in the sense of "checked," as in check-*mate*. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mat'ed, mat'ing.**

mate (a companion), distinguish from **ma'té** (a vessel in which a Brazilian beverage of this name is infused).

ma-te'ri-al (that of which anything is composed or constructed), distinguish from **ma"té"ri"el'** (a French word meaning "material," as distinguished from *personnel*).

mat'in (in the morning), distinguish from **mat'ting** (a floor covering).

mat"i-née', not *matinay* as it is pronounced in New York.

mat'rass (a bottle used in chemical distillation), distinguish from **mat'tress** (a bed stuffed with hair, wool, etc.).

ma'trix, not *matricks*. In forming the plural the *x* is dropped and *ces* is added, **mat'ri-ces.** See PLURALS, p. 14, sec. 4.

Mat'te-a-wan. Distinguish from MATAWAN.

mat'ting. Distinguish from MATIN.

mat'tress. Distinguish from MATRASS.

mat'u-rate *drops* the *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel as in forming the participles **mat'u-rat"ed, mat'u-rat"ing** and the noun **mat"u-ra'tion,** and adjective **mat'u-ra"tive.**

maul. Distinguish from MALL.

ma-xi'xe. A Brazilian dance, pronounced *masheesha.*

may"on-naise', not *mayonaise.*

may'or (a chief magistrate), distinguish from **mare** (the female of the horse).

maze (labyrinth), distinguish from **maize** (corn).

mead (a liquor; also, a meadow), distinguish from **Mede** (a native of Media), and from **meed** (reward).

mea'ger (scanty; inadequate), distinguish from **mai'gre** (food that may be eaten during church-fasts). **mea'-gre** is an alternative form of the first used in Great Britain.

mean (shabby; low; base; petty), distinguish from **mien** (manner; bearing).

mean. The past participle and imperfect tense of this verb is **meant**; the present participle **mean'ing.**

meant, not *ment.*

mea'sur-a-ble, not *measureable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

meat' (animal flesh), distinguish from **meet'** (to join, proper), **mete'** (to measure).

med'al (a metal disk commemorating some event or some deed, as of bravery), distinguish from **med'dle** (to interfere).

me-dal'lion, not *medalion.*

med'dle *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **med'dled, med'dling,** but *retains* it before *-some* in forming the adjective **med'dle-some.**

med'dler (one who interferes), distinguish from **med'lar** (a European tree or its fruit).

Mede. Distinguish from MEAD and MEED.

Me-de'a (a woman in Greek mythology), distinguish from **Me'di-a** (a region of N. W. Persia).

me"di-æ'val, me"di-e'val. Both forms are in use, but the first is more frequent in Great Britain and the second in the United States.

med'i-cine, not *medecine.*

Med"i-ter-ra'ne-an, not *Mediterranian.*

med'lar. Distinguish from MEDDLER.

meed. Distinguish from MEAD and MEDE.

meet. Distinguish from METE and MEAT.

meg'ohm (a million *ohms:* a term in electrometry), not *megome* as it is pronounced.

mel'an-chol-y, not *melancoly.* The *ch* is pronounced as *k.* See CH.

mê"lée'. A French word pronounced as if spelt *maylay.*

mel'o-dy *drops* the *y* for *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **mel'o-dies.**

melt. The past participle of this verb is **melt'ed** or **molt'en.**

mem"o-ran'dum forms its plural by adding *s,* or by dropping *um* and adding *a,* **mem"o-ran'da.** Careless speakers erroneously use *memoranda* as a singular.

me-mo'ri-al-ize, not *memorealize.*

mem'o-ry changes *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural, **mem'o-ries.**

men'ace *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **men'aced, men'ac-ing.**

me-nag'er-ie, not *menagery.*

men-da'cious, not *mendaceous.*
men-ha'den, not *menhayden.*
me'ni-al, not *meneal.*
men"in-gi'tis, not *meninjitis* but the *g* is soft. See G.
men'u, not *menyu* or *meenu.*
Meph"is-toph'e-les, not *Mefistofeles.*
mer'ce-na-ry, not *mercenery.* This word changes *y* to *i* and *-es* is added to form the plural **mer'ce-na-ries.**
mer'cer-ize, not *mercerise.* The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mer'cer-ized, mer'cer-iz"ing.**
mer'chan-dise (*n.* & *v.*), not *merchandize.* The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mer'chan-dised, mer'chan-dis"ing.**
mer'chant-a-ble, not *merchantible.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
mer'cy, final *y* is changed to *i* and *-es* is added to form the plural, **mer'cies,** and *y* changes to *i* before a suffix beginning with a consonant; as, **mer'ci-ful, mer'ci-less.**
mer'ge *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **merged, merg'ing.**
me-ri'no, not *marino;* in the plural **me-ri'nos,** not *merinoes.*
mer'it *does not* double the *t* in forming the participles **mer'it-ed, mer'it-ing.**
mer'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **mer'ri-er** and the superlative **mer'ri-est.**
mesne, pronounced as if written *mean.*
mes'sage (an errand), distinguish from **mess'uage** (a dwelling with its adjacent buildings).
met'al (iron, gold, silver, tin, etc.), distinguish from **met'tle** (spirit, courage).
met"a-mor'pho-sis, changes *-is* for *-es* in forming the plural **met"a-mor'pho-ses.**
met'a-phor, not *metafor.*
mete (to measure), distinguish from **meet** (**1.** To join. **2.** Fit, proper), and **meat** (animal flesh).
me'te-or is a word of three syllables sometimes mispronounced as if it were written *meet'yer.*
me'ter, me'tre. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
meth'od-i-za"tion, meth'od-i-sa"tion, meth'od-ize, meth'od-ise, meth'od-iz"er, meth'od-is-er. All forms are in use but the first of each group is preferred. The other derivatives of **meth'od** take *s;* as, **Meth'od-ist, Meth'od-ism.**

me-ton'y-my, not *metonimy*.
me-trop'o-lis, not *metropalis*.
met"ro-pol'i-tan, not *metrapolitan*.
met'tle. Distinguish from METAL.
mew (an enclosure or stable), distinguish from **mue** (to molt).
mewl (to cry like an infant), distinguish from **mule** (a beast of burden).
mews (enclosures, stables), distinguish from **muse** (to ponder).
mez'za-nine, not *mezanine*.
mez'zo, not *medzo* as it is pronounced.
mez'zo-tint, not *mezotint*.
mice. Plural of MOUSE.
Mi'chael. In this word *ch* is pronounced as *k* (see CH), and the *a* is silent. So also in **Mich'ael-mas**.
Mi"chel-an'ge-lo, not *Michaelangelo*.
mi'crohm, not *microme*. See OHM.
mi-crom'e-ter, not *michrometer*.
mien (manner, bearing), distinguish from **mean** (shabby, squalid; low).
might (strength), distinguish from **mite** (a small insect, a very small coin).
might'y (powerful), *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **might'i-er, might'i-est**. Distinguish from **mit'y** (full of mites).
mi"gnon-ette', not *minionette*.
mi'grate, not *migreat*.
mile *retains* final *e* before *-age* in **mile'age**.
Mil-lais' (English artist), distinguish from **Mil"let'** (French artist), and **Mil'let** (American war-correspondent and artist).
mil'le-na-ry (a thousand years), distinguish from **mil'li-ner-y** (women's hats and bonnets).
mil"lion-aire', not *millionare*.
mim'e-o-graph, not *mimiograph*.
mince *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **minced, minc'ing**.
mind (**I.** *n.* The understanding. **II.** *v.* To pay attention to), distinguish from **mined** (*a.* Dug out of the earth; also, prepared for blowing up).
mi'ner (a worker in mines), distinguish from **mi'nor** (one under age).
min'i-a-ture, not *minature*.

min'i-mize, not *minimise.*

min'is-ter (an agent or preacher), distinguish from **min'-ster** (a monastery, church, or cathedral).

mi'nor. Distinguish from MINER.

minute, not *minit.* There are three words spelt in this way: an adjective pronounced *mi-nute'*, a noun pronounced *min'it,* and a verb pronounced the same way.

mis"ce-ge-na'tion, not *misigenation* as it is pronounced.

mis"cel-la'ne-ous, not *miscellanious.*

mis'chief, not *mischef* or *mischeef.*

mis'chie-vous, not *mischevous.*

mis'ci-ble (such as can be mixed), not *misible.* Distinguish from **miss'a-ble** (capable of being missed).

mis"de-mean'or, mis"de-mean'our. Both forms are in use; the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain. See RULES, p. 11.

mis-fea'sance, not *misfeasence.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

mis-fit, *doubles* final *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mis-fit'ted, mis-fit'ting.**

misible. Misspelling of MISCIBLE.

mis-lay' *drops* the *y* and substitutes *-id* in forming the past participle **mis-laid',** but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mis-lay'ing.**

mis-lead'. The past participle of this verb is misleading as it is formed by dropping the *a* from the last syllable, **mis-led'.** The present participle is **mis-lead'ing.**

miss'a-ble. Distinguish from MISCIBLE. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

mis'sal (a mass-book), distinguish from **mis'sile** (a weapon discharged or thrown, as a bullet, arrow, lance, spear, etc.).

missed (past tense of MISS, *v.*), distinguish from **mist** (vapor, fine rain).

mis'sel (a thrush), distinguish from **mis'sal** (a mass-book). See MISSAL.

Mis"sis-sip'pi. Note that this word has four *s*'s and two *p*'s.

mis-take' forms the past participle by adding *n* to the root word **mis-tak'en.** Before *-ing* the final *e* is dropped in forming the present participle **mis-tak'ing.** In the imperfect tense the form of the verb changes, **mis-took'.** See TAKE.

mis'tle-toe, not *misseltoe* as it is pronounced. Note that the medial *t* is silent.

mite (a small insect; also, a very small thing, as a coin), distinguish from **might** (power).

mi'ter, mi'tre. Both forms are in use, but the second is generally preferred.

mne-mon'ics (the science of memorizing). Note that the word is pronounced *nemonics*, the initial *m* being silent. See M.

Mne-mos'y-ne. The initial *m* is silent in this the name of the Mother of the Muses and the Goddess of Memory.

moan (to lament), distinguish from **mown** (cut down).

moat (a ditch), distinguish from **mote** (a small particle).

mob *doubles* the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mobbed, mob'bing** and before *-er* and *-ish* in forming the noun **mob'ber** and the adjective **mob'bish.**

mode (a fashion), distinguish from **mow'ed** (cut down, as grass).

mod'el. The participles of this verb are written **mod'eled** or **mod'elled, mod'el-ing** or **mod'el-ling.** The noun also has the two forms **mod'el-er** or **mod'el-ler.**

mod'ern, not *modren.*

mod'i-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* and *-ed* is added to form the past participle **mod'i-fied,** and also before *-er* in forming the noun **mod'i-fi″er,** but *retains* the final *y* before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mod'i-fy″ing.**

Mo-ham'med is preferred to **Ma-hom'et.** See MOHAMMEDAN.

Mo-ham'me-dan, not *Mohamedan;* **Mahomedan** and **Mahometan** are forms occasionally used, but the first prevails.

moi'e-ty *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **moi'e-ties.**

moire, moi″ré′. The first of these is a noun; the second, an adjective. Both words are from the French.

mold, mould; mold'a-ble, mould'a-ble; mold'er, mould'er; mold'ing, mould'ing. Both forms of each word are in use but the first of each group is used in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

mol'e-cule, not *molicule.*

mol'li-fy *changes* the *y* for *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **mol'li-fied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mol'li-fy″ing.**

molt, moult. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

mol'ten, not *moulten.*

mo-men'tum *changes* the *um* to *a* in forming the plural, **mo-men'ta.** See IRREGULAR PLURALS, p. 14.

mon'arch. Note that the *a* is obscure in speech and that *ch* is pronounced as *k.* See CH.

mon'as-ter-y, not *monastry.*

mon'ey. The plural of this word may be formed by adding *s* or by dropping the *ey* and adding *ies:* **moneys, mon'ies.**

mon'eyed, not *monied.*

mon'goos, not *mongoose,* but the plural is formed by adding *es:* **mon'goos-es.**

mon"o-met'al-ism, mon"o-met'al-lism; mon"o-met'al-ist, mon"o-met'al-list. Both forms are in use.

mo-nop'o-ly *drops* the *y* for *i* in the forming of its derivatives **mo-nop'o-lism, mo-nop'o-list, mo-nop"o-li-za'tion, mo-nop'o-lize** or **-lise, -liz"er** or **-lis"er.**

mon-sieur'. The plural of this word is **mes-sieurs'.**

mon'strance, not *mon'strence.*

Mont-pe'li-er (a city in Vermont), distinguish from **Mont"pel"lier'** (a city in France).

moor (a tract of land), distinguish from **Moor** (a native of Morocco), and **more** (greater in amount).

mop *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **mopped, mop'ping.** See RULES, p. 4.

mor'al (not corruptible), distinguish from **mo-rale'** (mental condition as regards bearing courage, confidence and zeal).

mor"a-to'ri-um, not *moritorium.* In the plural **mor"a-to'ri-a** or **mor"a-to'ri-ums.**

more (a greater amount), distinguish from **mow'er** (one who mows). Compare MOOR.

mo-reen', not *moireen.*

morn (the early part of the day), distinguish from **mourn** (to lament). Note also that the difference between **morn'ing** and **mourn'ing** is the *u* in the latter.

mor'phin, mor-phine. Both forms are in use, but the first is favored by scientists.

mor'rice, mor'ris. Both forms are used, but the latter is preferred.

mor'tar, not *morter.*

mort'gage. Note that the *t* is silent (see T) and that the word *retains* the *e* in forming the adjective **mort'gage-a-ble.** See RULES, p. 5.

mort'gage *drops* the *e* before *-ed*, *-ing*, and *-or* in forming the participles **mort'gaged, mort-gag'ing.**

mort'ga-gor, mort'ga-geor, mort'ga-ger. The three forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

mor'tise is spelt also **mor'tice,** but the first is preferred on both sides of the Atlantic.

mort'main", not *mortmane.*

mosque is preferred to **mosk.**

mos-qui'to adds *es* to form the plural **mos-qui'toes.**

mote (a small particle), distinguish from **moat** (a ditch).

mo"tif' (the feature of a literary or an artistic work), distinguish from **mo'tive** (moving cause; inducement).

mot'to forms the plural by adding *es*, **mot'toes.**

mould. See MOLD.

moun'tain (a lofty, rocky elevation), distinguish from **mount'ing** (rising).

moun'te-bank, not *mountibank.*

mourn. Distinguish from MORN.

mouse *changes* its form in the plural **to mice.** See IRREGULAR PLURALS, p. 13.

mous-tache'. See MUSTACHE.

mov'a-ble, move'a-ble. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

move *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **moved, mov'ing,** but *retains* it before *-ment* in forming the noun **move'ment.**

mow. This trigraph is pronounced to rime with "cow," when it indicates a place where hay is kept (**hay-mow**), and with "go", when it indicates cutting down, as of grass.

mow'ed (cut down), distinguish from **mode** (fashion).

mow'er. Distinguish from MORE.

mown. Distinguish from MOAN.

mu'cous (slimy), distinguish from **mu'cus** (viscid fluid).

mug'gy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **mug'gi-er, mug'gi-est.**

mule (a beast of burden), distinguish from **mewl** (to cry like an infant).

mul'ti-ply *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* and *-er*, as in the past participle **mul'ti-plied** and the noun **mul'ti-pli"er,** but *retains* the *y* before *-ing* in the present participle **mul'ti-ply"ing.**

mum *doubles* the final *m* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mummed, mum'ming.**

mum'mi-fy *drops* the *y* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **mum'mi-fied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mum'mi-fy"ing.**

mum'my *drops* the *y* for *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural **mum'mies.**

mu-nic'i-pal, not *municiple.*

mus'cat (a sweet grape), distinguish from **musk'cat"** (a cat-like animal), and **mus'ket** (a small gun).

mus'cle (brawn, strength), distinguish from **mus'sel** (a shell-fish).

muse (to think over, ponder), distinguish from **Muse** (a goddess of art, poetry, etc.), and **mews** (stables).

mus'lin (a fine cotton fabric), distinguish from **muz'zling** (the act of putting a guard over the mouth).

mus'sel. Distinguish from MUS'CLE.

mus-tache' is preferred to **mous-tache'** which is an alternative form.

must'y *drops* the *y* for *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **must'i-er** and the superlative **must'-i-est.**

mu'ti-ny *drops* the *y* for *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **mu'ti-nies** and before *-ed* in forming the past participle **mu'ti-nied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mu'ti-ny-ing.**

mu'tu-al (common; joint), distinguish from **mu'tule** (a term in architecture).

muz'zle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **muz'zled, muz'zling.**

muz'zling (the act of putting a guard over the mouth), distinguish from **mus'lin** (fine cotton fabric).

myrrh, not *mur* as it is pronounced. Note that the digraph *rh* is silent. See R.

mys'ter-y *changes* the final *y* to *i,* and adds *-es* to form the plural, **mys'ter-ies,** and *-ous* in forming the adjective, **mys-te'ri-ous.**

mys'ti-fy *changes* the *y* before *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **mys'ti-fied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mys'ti-fy"ing.**

N

n. This letter is represented in common spelling by: (1) *n, nn,* as in *no, honor, on, banner,* etc. (2) Unaccented *en* as in *heaven* (hev'n); *on* as in *lesson* (les'n), etc. (3) *n* as in *ink* is merely a variation of ng before *c, g, k, q.* (4) *n* in French words which indicates that the preceding vowel usually has a nasal sound.

Final *n* is sometimes silent, as in *condemn, contemn, autumn, column, hymn,* and *limn.*

na"celle'. A word derived from the French used to designate the basket of a balloon or the framework of a dirigible airship. The word is pronounced as if spelt *nah-sel'.*

nag (a small horse), distinguish from **knag** (a knot or knob in wood) in which the *k* is silent. See K.

nag (*v.*) *doubles* the *g* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **nagged, nag'ging** and in forming the adjective **nag'gy.**

na-ive' (ingenuous, candid), distinguish from **knave** (a rascal, rogue), and **nave** (the main part of a church or the hub of a wheel).

na"ïve"té', not *naivety.*

nam'a-ble, name'a-ble. Both forms are used.

name *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **named, naming,** but *retains* it before a suffix beginning with a consonant as in **name'less, name'ly, name'sake.**

nap (1. A short sleep. **2.** The fiber of flannel or silk), distinguish from **knap** (to break short; snap), and **nape** (the back of the neck).

nap (*v.*) *doubles* the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **napped, nap'ping,** and before *-py* in the adjective **nap'py.**

na'pe-ry (household linen), not *nappery.*

naph'tha, not *naptha,* a common misspelling, or *naftha* as the word is pronounced. See PH.

narl, narled. Misspellings of GNARL, GNARLED.

nar-rate' *drops* the *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **nar-ra'tion, nar-rat'ed, nar-rat'ing, nar'ra-tive, nar-ra'tor,** etc.

nas'cent, not *nasent* as it is pronounced.

nash, nat, naw, neiss, nome, nu. Misspellings of GNASH, GNAT, GNAW, GNEISS, GNOME, GNU, which see.

nas-tur'tium, not *nasturshum* as it is pronounced. The plural of this word is formed by adding *s*.

nas'ty forms its comparative and superlative by changing *y* for *i* before *-er* and *-est*, **nas'ti-er, nas'ti-est,** and before *-ly* and *-ness* in **nas'ti-ly, nas'ti-ness.**

na'tion-al-ize, not *nationalise*. See -IZE, -ISE, p. 9.

nat'u-ral-ize, not *naturalise*. See -IZE, -ISE, p. 9.

naught (nothing), distinguish from **note** (a memorandum or short letter). The digraph *gh* is silent.

na'val (pertaining to ships and the navy), distinguish from **na'vel** (the abdominal depression).

nave. Distinguish from KNAVE and from NAIVE.

nav'i-ga-ble, not *navigatable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

nav'vy (a laborer), distinguish from **na'vy** (a marine military force and its ships and equipment).

nay (a negative), distinguish from **neigh** (the whinny or cry of a horse).

neal (to anneal), distinguish from **kneel** (to rest on bended knees).

neap (tide), not *neep*.

neb (the bill of a bird), distinguish from **nib** (a pen-point).

nec"es-sa'ri-an, not *necessarean*.

nec'es-sa-ry *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural **nec'es-sa-ries,** and *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ly* and *-ness* in **nec'es-sa"ri-ly, nec'es-sa"ri-ness.**

ne-ces'si-tate *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ne-ces'si-tat"ed, ne-ces'si-tat"ing.**

née (born: a French word), distinguish from **nay** (no) and **neigh** (the whinny of a horse).

need (want, poverty), distinguish from **knead** (to mix as dough; to work up or operate on).

need'y. A word that custom does not permit one to divide in writing or printing. The *y* changes to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **need'i-er, need'i-est.**

neg"li"gée'. A French word that means, "not in formal or receiving attire." Note the accent on the second *é*, and never write it *negligé*.

neg'li-gi-ble, not *negligeable*.

ne-go'ti-a-ble, not *negociable*.

ne-go'ti-ate, not *negociate*. The final *e* is dropped before a suffix beginning with a vowel.

ne'gro forms the plural by adding *-es*, never *-s*. The word is Spanish and means "black," and when used in the United States to designate an Afro-American it is sometimes written **Negro.**

neigh (the whinny or cry of a horse), distinguish from **nay** (negative). See NAY, NÉE.

neigh'bor, not *naybor* as it is pronounced. See EIGH.

nei'ther (not either), distinguish from **neth'er** (lower). To the *ei* of the first word the sound of *i* is frequently given, but the spelling remains the same.

neph'ew, not *nefew* or *nevew* as it is sometimes pronounced. See PH.

ne-phri'tis, not *nefritis*. See PH.

nerve *drops* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **ner'val, ner-va'tion, nerved, nerv'ing, ner'vous.**

nes'cience, not *neshence* as it is pronounced. The word may be divided **nes-ci-ence** in printing or writing.

nes'tle, not *nestel* or *nesel* as it is pronounced, the *t* being silent as it is also in **nes'tled, nes'tling.**

net, nett. The first form is preferred in the United States, the second is common in Great Britain.

neth'er. Distinguish from NEITHER.

neu'ter, not *newter, nuter,* or *neutre.*

neu'tral-ize, neu'tral-ise. Both forms are in use, but the first is more frequent. The word *drops* the final *e* before *-able* and *-ation* in **neu"tra-liz'a-ble, neu"-tral-i-za'tion.**

neumatic, neumonia, etc. Misspellings of **pneu-mat'ic, pneu-mo'ni-a,** etc.

new (modern; of late origin), distinguish from **gnu** (an African antelope), and **knew** (past tense of KNOW).

new'el, not *newell.*

nib *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **nibbed, nib'-bing.**

nib'ble *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **nib'bled, nib'bling.**

niche, not *nitch* as it is pronounced.

nick'el, not *nickle.*

nick'eled, not *nickelled.*

nick'nack is also spelt **knick-knack.**

niece, not *neice.* See pp. 7 and 8.

Nietzsche, pronounced as if spelt ***neech'e,*** the final ***e*** as "e" in "moment."

nig'gard, not *niggerd.*
nig'ger, not *niggar.*
nigh, pronounced as if spelt *nie*; the *gh* being silent. See GH.
night (the end of day; darkness), distinguish from **knight** (a champion; also, a title of honor). In both words *gh* is silent. See GH.
nil (nothing), distinguish from **nill** (will not).
nine *drops* the *e* before *th* in **ninth** (*a.* & *n.*), and **ninth'ly** (*adv.*).
nine'ty changes *y* to *i* before *-eth* in forming **nine'ti-eth,** *a.* & *n.*
nip *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **nipped, nip'ping,** and the adjective **nip'py.**
nit (the egg on an insect), distinguish from **knit** (to weave).
ni'ter, ni'tre. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
no (negative), distinguish from **know** (to be acquainted with or aware of).
No-bel' (Swedish manufacturer, founder of Nobel prizes), distinguish from **no'ble** (aristocratic, magnificent).
noc'turn (a church service held at night), distinguish from **noc'turne** (a serenade).
nod *doubles* the *d* in forming the participles **nod'ded, nod'ding** and the noun **nod'der.**
noes (plural of NO), distinguish from **knows** (has knowledge) and from **nose** (the organ of smell).
nog'gin (a wooden tub-like receptacle), distinguish from **nog'ging** (wooden or brick filling for walls).
noise *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **noised, nois'ing.**
noi'some *retains* the *e* before *-ly* and *-ness* in **noi'some-ly, noi'some-ness.**
nois'y *changes* the *y* to *i* in forming the comparative and superlative **nois'i-er, nois'i-est;** in the adverb **nois'i-ly,** and in the noun **nois'i-ness.**
nome (**1.** A term, in algebra. **2.** The name of a province in Greece), distinguish from **gnome** (a goblin or sprite).
no'men-cla"tor (one who calls out or gives names to), distinguish from **no'men-cla"ture** (a system of names).
nonce (the present time), distinguish from **nones** (a canonical office).
non"cha-lance', note that the *ch* is pronounced as *sh.*
non"-com'bat-ant, not *non-combattant.*

none (not any), distinguish from **nun** (a woman devoted to a religious life).

nones. Distinguish from NONCE.

non-fea'sance, not *nonfcesance.* See EA.

non"pa-reil', not *nonparail* as it is pronounced.

non'plus. The participles of this verb are written **non'plused** or **non'plussed; non'plus-ing** or **non'plus-sing.**

noose *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **noosed, noos'ing.**

nor (neither), distinguish from **gnaw** (to eat little by little), and **Nore** (a sandbank at the mouth of the Thames, England).

Nor'wich, as the name of an English city the *w* is silent, but as the name of a city in Connecticut it is sounded.

nose (the organ of smell), distinguish from **knows** (has knowledge), and **noes** (plural of NO).

not (negative; denial), distinguish from **knot** (**1.** A bow or other twisting, as of ribbon, twine, etc. **2.** A nautical mile).

no'tice *retains* the *e* in the adjective **no'tice-a-ble** and the adverb **no'tice-a-bly.** See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

nought. A variant of NAUGHT, which see.

nov'el-ty, the *y* changes to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **nov'el-ties.**

noz'zle (a spout as for a hose), distinguish from **nuz'zle** (to snuggle; nestle).

nu'cle-us (*sing.*) forms its plural by dropping *-us* and adding *i,* **nu'cle-i.**

nui'sance, not *niusance*—the *i* always follows the *u.*

nul'li-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **nul'li-fied, nul'li-fy"ing.**

numb. Note that the *b* is silent. See B and SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

nu'mer-a-ry, not *numerery.*

nun (a woman devoted to a religious life), distinguish from **none** (not any).

nurse *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **nursed, nurs'ing.**

nurse *drops* the *e* in the noun **nurs'ling.**

nut *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **nut'ted, nut'ting.**

nuz'zle. Distinguish from NOZZLE.

nymph, not *nymf* or *nymphe.*

O

o. The sounds of *o* are indicated by the following words: (1) *Obey;* (2) *go;* (3) *not;* (4) *nor;* (5) *atom, actor;* (6) *move, prove;* (7) *wolf;* (8) *come;* (9) *worst;* (10) *women.* The letter is used also in the following associations: (1) *oa* in *load;* (2) *oe* in *toe;* (3) *oe* in *shoe;* (4) *oe* in *does;* (5) *œ* in *Phœnix;* (6) *oi* in *oil;* (7) *oy* in *boy;* (8) *oo* in *good;* (9) *oo* in *blood;* (10) *oo* in *pool;* (11) *oo* in *floor;* (12) *ou* in *loud;* (13) *ou* in *pour;* (14) *ou* in *soup;* (15) *ou* in *rough;* (16) *ou* in *journey;* (17) *ow* in *now;* (18) *ow* in *flow;* (19) *eo* in *leopard;* (20) *eo* in *people;* and (21) *ao* in *gaol.* Note that *o* is silent in English in the following words: *gaol* (jail); *jeopard* (jepard); *leopard* (lepard); *people* (peepul); *rough* (ruff); *sojourn* (sojurn). See -OU and -OUS.

oa. A digraph which in English spelling usually represents the sound of *o* in "go," as in *boat, coat, goat,* etc.; but sometimes the sound of *o* in "nor" as in *boar, hoar, roar,* etc. See O.

oaf forms its plural by adding *s,* not *-ves.*

oak. Note that this is a word of one syllable and that the *a* is silent.

oar (a bladed shaft used for rowing), distinguish from **o'er** (over), and from **ore** (unrefined metal).

o'a-sis forms its plural by changing *i* to *e,* **o'a-ses.**

oat. Note that this is a word of one syllable and that the *a* is silent.

o-be'di-ent, not *obediant.*

o-bei'sance, not *obeysance.*

o-bese', not *obeese.*

o-bey' (to comply with or carry out), distinguish from **a-bey'** (to put in abeyance).

o-bit'u-a-ry, not *orbituery.*

ob'li-gate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ob'li-gat"ed, ob'li-gat"ing.**

ob"li-gor', not *obliger* or *obligeor.*

ob-lique', not *oblike* as it is sometimes pronounced.

ob-scene', not *obseen.*

ob-scure' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ob-scured', ob-scur'ing.**

ob'se-quies (funeral rites), distinguish from **ob-se'qui-ous** (deferential), not *obsequeous.*

ob-strep'er-ous, not *obstreparous.*

oc-cur' *doubles* the *r* informing the participles **oc-curred'**, **oc-cur'ring.**

oc-cur'rence, not *occurance* or *occurrance.*

oc-cur'rent, not *occurrant.*

o'cean. A spelling that can not be determined from the pronunciation—*oshan.* See C.

o'cher, o'chre. Both forms are in use. See CH.

O'Con'nell, not *O'Conel,* two *n*'s and two *l*'s.

oc'tave, not *octive.*

oc'to-pus, not *octapus.*

oc'u-lar, not *oculer.*

ode (a short poem), distinguish from **owed** (past tense of OWE).

o'dor, o'dour. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

oe. A diagraph having various sounds in English, as in (1) *doe, foe;* (2) *does* (duz); (3) *shoes.* See O.

o'er (over), distinguish from **oar** (a bladed shaft used in rowing), and **ore** (unrefined metal).

of (belonging to or concerning), distinguish from **off** (away from; at a distance).

of'fal (refuse), distinguish from **aw'ful** (filled with awe; fearful).

of-fence', of-fense'. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States.

oft'en (frequently), distinguish from **or'phan** (a parentless child).

o-gee' (a molding with a long S curve). Note that the *g* is soft—sounded as *j*—in this and the next word. See G.

o-give', not *ogyve.* See GYVE and OGEE above.

o'gre, not *oger.*

o'gre-ish is preferred to **o'grish.**

oh (alas), distinguish from **owe** (to be in debt).

ohm. Note that the *h* is silent in this word and all compound words of which it is an element.

ohm'me"ter, not *ommeter.* See OHM.

O. K., okeh. The first is the popular form; the second was revived by President Wilson. The first arose from a misreading of O. R., "Ordered Recorded"; the second is said to be a Choctaw word meaning, "it is so and in no other way."

o"le-o-mar'ga-rine or **o"le-o-mar'ga-rin,** not *oleomargerine* as it is sometimes erroneously pronounced.

ol'i-va-ry (like an olive), not *olivery.*

o-mit' before *-ed* and *-ing doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **o-mit'ted, o-mit'ting.**

om-nis'cience. Note the form of this word of which the *sc* is pronounced as *sh—omnishens.*

one (a unit or single thing), distinguish from **won** (earned by effort; gained).

on'er-a-ry (fit or intended for burdens), distinguish from **hon'or-a-ry** (conferring honor).

on'ion, not *unyen* as pronounced. See O.

on"o-mat"o-pœ'ia, not *onomatopeia.*

on'slaught. Note that the *gh* is silent. See GH.

on'stead, not *onsted.* Note that the *a* is silent. See A.

o-paque', not *opake.*

op'er-ate *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **op'er-at"ed, op'er-at"ing,** and before *-able* in the adjective **op'er-at"a-ble.**

op'er-a"tor, not *operater.*

oph-thal'mi-a, pronounced as if written *ofthalmia.*

op-pose', not *opose* or *oppoze.* This word *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **op-posed', op-pos'ing,** and before *-able* in forming the adjective **op-pos'a-ble,** NOT *opposeable.*

op-pugn', not *oppune* as it is pronounced. The word is from the Latin *ob,* against, and *pugno,* fight; the *g* in the word is silent. See G.

or-dain', not *ordane* or *ordeign.*

or'de-al, not *ordeel.*

or'der (method; system; command), distinguish from **or'dure** (filth).

or'di-nance (a municipal law), distinguish from **ord'-nance** (guns), and **or'don-nance** (the correct arrangement of parts).

ore. Distinguish from OAR.

or'gan-dy is preferred to **or'gan-die,** but forms its plural by changing *y* to *i* and adding *-es.*

or'gan-ize *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **or'gan-ized, or'gan-iz"ing,** and before *-able* in forming the adjective **or'gan-iz"a-ble.**

or'na-ment, not *orniment.*

or'phan (a parentless child), distinguish from **oft'en** (frequently).

or-thog'ra-pher, not *authographer.*

or-thog'ra-phy, not *authography.*

os'cil-late, not *osillate* as it is pronounced. See SC.

os'cil-la"tor, not *oscillater.*

os'se-ous, not *ossious.*

os'si-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **os'si-fied.**

os-ten'si-ble, not *ostensable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

os'tler. Variant of HOSTLER, the *t* is silent in both words.

os'tra-cism, not *ostracizm.* See OSTRACIZE.

os'tra-cize, not *ostracise.* The verb *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **os'tra-cized, os'tra-ciz"ing.**

os'trich, not *austrich.*

Ot'to-man, not *Otterman.*

-ou. A digraph that occurs frequently in English. See O (12) to (16).

-ough. A common combination in English words pronounced variously as in **bough** (*bow*), **chough** (*chuf*), **cough** (*kof*), **dough** (*doe*), **fought** (*fout*), **hough** (*hock*), **lough** (*loch*), **rough** (*ruf*), **sough** (*sow*), etc. See GH.

ounce, the weight and the wildcat are spelt alike.

our (pertaining or belonging to us), distinguish from **hour** (sixty minutes). See H.

-ous. A suffix used in forming adjectives. See RULES FOR SPELLING, p. 11.

out'rage *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **out'raged, out'rag-ing,** but *retains* it before *-ous* in forming the adjective **out-ra'geous.**

o'ver-ture, not *ouverture.*

o"ver-whelm'. In Great Britain the *h* is not heard in colloquial speech.

owe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **owed, ow'ing,** NOT *oweing.*

owe (to be in debt), distinguish from **oh** (alas!). Note that the digraph *we* is silent.

owed (did OWE), distinguish from **ode** (a short poem).

ox'id, ox'ide. Both forms are in use.

ox"i-di-za'tion, not **ox"y-di-sa'tion,** an alternative form seldom used.

ox'i-dize is preferred to **ox'i-dise.** An alternative form now seldom used is **ox'y-dize.** This verb *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ox'i-dized; ox'i-diz"ing.**

ox'y-gen. The original spelling of the term when suggested by Lavoisier in 1777 was *oxygine* which was modified to *oxygene* in 1785-6 and the form, *oxygene,* was first used in English in 1789.

ox"y-rhyn'chous (having a pointed beak or snout). A catch word used in spelling tests.

o'zo-nize, not *ozonise* or *ozonyze.*

P

p. This letter when initial and before *n, s, sh,* and *t,* is silent, as in *pneumonia, psalm, pseudo-, pshaw, ptomain.* It is silent also in *corps* (a body of troops), *cupboard, raspberry, receipt.* See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.

pac'i-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **pac'i-fied,** and before *-er* in forming the noun **pac'i-fi"er,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **pac'i-fy"ing.**

packed (put into a receptacle, as clothes pressed together, in a trunk), distinguish from **pact** (an agreement).

pad *doubles* the *d* in forming the participles **pad'ded, pad'ding.**

pæ'an is preferred to **pe'an.**

pæ'o-ny, pe'o-ny. Both forms are used, but the second is preferred.

page *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **paged, pag'ing,** NOT *pageing.*

pag'eant, not *pagent* or *pajent* as it is pronounced.

pag"i-na'tion, not *pageination.*

paid, not *payed.*

pai-deu'tics (the theory or act of teaching boys), not *pæ-deu'tics.*

pail (a cylindrical vessel for liquids), distinguish from **pale** (white; also, a stake).

pail'ful, plural **pail'fuls,** not *pail'full* or *pails full* unless more than one pail is used and then always written as two words.

pain (an ache; suffering, as from a bruise, wound, or toothache), distinguish from **pane** (a piece of window-glass or a square or section in a checker pattern).

pair (two), distinguish from **pare** (cut off the skin of), from **pear** (a fruit), and from **pay'er** (one who pays).

pa-ja'mas, not *paijamas* or *pyjamas.* The word is from the Hindustani *paejama,* from the *paë,* leg, and *jama,* garment.

pal'ace (a royal residence), distinguish from **Pal'las** (the Greek goddess Athena).

pa-læ'o-. Classic form of PALEO-: used as a combining form in words derived from the Greek. In this book the simpler form *paleo*, now widely used, is preferred.

pal'at-a-ble, not *palateable* or *palatible*. See -ABLE, p. 5.

pal'ate (the roof of the mouth), distinguish from **pal'et** (a thin tablet for mixing colors), **pal'let** (a straw-bed or mattress), and **pal-lette'** (armor protecting the armpits).

Pa-lat'i-nate (a territory of Germany), distinguish from **Pal'a-tine** (the central hill of ancient Rome).

pale (*a.*) *retains* the *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant, as in **pale'ness.**

pale, *n.* (a restricted district; also, a stake). Distinguish from PAIL.

pale (*v.*) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **paled, pal'ing,** and before *-ish* in forming the adjective **pal'ish,** NOT *paleish.*

pa"le-og'ra-phy *drops* the *y* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **pa"le-og'ra-pher, pa"le-o-graph'ic.** See PH.

pa"le-on-tol'o-gy *drops* the *y* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **pa"le-on-tol'o-gist.** See G.

pal'et. Distinguish from PALLET, PALLETTE, and PALATE. See under PALATE.

pall (a cloak or black cloth covering), distinguish from **pawl** (a hinged piece of machinery), and **Paul** (a man's name).

Pal'las. Distinguish from PALACE.

pal'let. Distinguish from PALLETTE. See under PALATE.

pal'li-ate, not *palleate.*

pal'lid, not *palid.*

pal'lor, not *palor.*

palm, not *pam* as it is pronounced. Note that the *l* is silent. See L.

palm'is-try, not *palmistery* or *palmystery.* Note that the *l* is silent. See L.

palm'y *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **palm'i-er, palm'i-est.**

pal'sy, not *pallsy.* The *y* changes to *i* in forming the past participle **pal'sied,** but is *retained* in the present participle **pal'sy-ing.** See S.

pal'try (trivial), distinguish from **poul'try** (domestic fowls). *Paltry changes* the *y* to *i* in forming the comparative and superlative **pal'tri-er, pal'tri-est.**

pam'pas, not *pampass.*

pam'phlet, not *pamflet* as pronounced. See PH.

pan *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **panned, pan'ning.**

pan"de-mo'ni-um, not **pan"dæ-mo'ni-um,** an alternative form not frequently used.

pan'der (to cater to the prejudices, etc., of others), distinguish from **pan'dour** (a marauder).

Pan-do'ra (a beautiful woman of Greek mythology), distinguish from **pan-du'ra** (a lute-like musical instrument).

pane (a piece of window-glass, etc.), distinguish from **pain** (ache; suffering).

pan'el. The participles of this verb are written **pan'-eled** or **pan'elled; pan'el-ing** or **pan'el-ling.**

pan'ic, not *panick;* but **pan'ick-y,** not *paniky.*

pan'nier, not *panier* or *paneer.*

pan'sy *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural, **pan'sies.**

pan'to-mime, not *pantomine.*

pa"pier'-mâ"ché', not *paper-maché'.*

pa-py'rus *changes* the *us* to *i* to form the plural **pa-py'ri.**

pa-rab'o-la (a conic section), distinguish from **pa-rab'o-le** (a comparison in rhetoric).

par'a-chute, not *parashoot.*

par'a-digm. Note that the *g* is silent. See G.

par'af-fin, par'af-fine. Both are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

par'al-lel, not *paralel* or *parrallel.*

The participles of the verb are written **par'al-leled** or **par'al-lelled; par'al-lel-ing** or **par'al-lel-ling.**

par'a-lyze, par'a-lyse, not *paralise.* The first is used in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

par"a-pher-na'li-a, not *paraphanalia.*

par'a-phrase *drops* the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **par'a-phras-a-ble** and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **par'a-phrased, par'a-phras"-ing.**

par'cel. The participles of this verb are written **par'-celed** or **par'celled, par'cel-ing** or **par'cel-ling.**

par'ci-mo-ny (sparingness in assumptions, etc., in logic), distinguish from **par'si-mo-ny** (stinginess).

pare (to cut off the covering or edge of), distinguish from **pair** (two), **pay'er** (one who pays), and from **pear** (a fruit). The verb **pare** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pared, par'ing,** NOT *pare'ing.*

pa-ren'the-sis *changes* the *i* to *e* in forming the plural **pa-ren'the-ses.**

Pa'ri-ah, not *Paria.*

par'ing, not *pareing.*

par'ish (a church district), distinguish from **per'ish** (to wither; decay).

par'lia-ment, not *parliment* as it is pronounced.

par"lia-men'ta-ry, not *parlimentary.*

par'o-dy (*n.*) *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural, **par'o-dies.**

par'o-dy (*v.*) changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **par'o-died.**

pa-rol' (given by word of mouth), distinguish from **pa-role'** (one's word of honor).

par-quet', par-quette'. Both forms are, in use, but the first is preferred.

par'ra-keet, not *parakeet.*

parralel. Misspelling of PARALLEL.

par'ri-cide, not *paracide.*

par'ry (*v.*) *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **par'ried.**

par'ry (*n.*) *drops* the *y* for *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural, **par'ries.**

parse *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **parsed, pars'ing.**

par'si-mo-ny. Distinguish from PARCIMONY.

pars'ley, not *parsly.*

par-take'. The parts of this verb are irregular, **par-tak'-en** being the past participle, **par-tak'ing** the present participle, and **par-took'** the preterit.

part'i-ble, not *partable.* See -IBLE, p. 8.

par'ti-ci-ple, not *participal.*

par'ti-cle, not *partical.*

par-tic'u-lar, not *particuler* or *perticular.*

par-tic'u-lar-ize, not *perticlarize.*

par'ti-zan, par'ti-san. Both forms are in use; the first—Shakespeare's spelling—in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

Pas'cal (a family name), distinguish from **pas'chal** (pertaining to the Passover). See CH.

pa-sha', now preferred to **pa-cha'**.

pass'a-ble (**1.** Capable of being passed. **2.** Fairly good. **3.** Fit for circulation), distinguish from **pas'si-ble** (capable of feeling or suffering).

passed (gone by), distinguish from **past** (time gone by).

pas'tel (a picture drawn with crayons), distinguish from **pas'til** (a lozenge). The latter is sometimes spelled **pas'tille.**

past'er (one who pastes anything), distinguish from **pas'tor** (the minister of a flock; a clergyman), and from **pas'ture** (grazing land).

Pas-teur'ize, Pas-teur'ise, not *pasturize.* The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **Pas-teur'ized, Pas-teur'iz-ing** and before *-ation* in forming the noun **Pas-teur"i-za'tion.**

pas'tor, pas'ture. Distinguish from PASTER.

pat *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **pat'ted, pat'ting.**

pa'tience (the quality of being tolerant and calm), distinguish from **pa'tients** (persons in the care of a physician).

pa-trol' *doubles* the *l* in forming the participles **patrolled', pa-trol'ling.**

pa'tron, not *paytron* or *patrun.*

pat'ro-nage, not *patronedge* or *paytronage.*

pat'ron-iz"a-ble, not **pat'ron-is"a-ble** which is sometimes used in Great Britain but not recognized by modern English lexicographers.

pat'ron-ize, not *patrunize.* This verb drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pat'ron-ized, pat'ron-iz"ing.** The form **pat'ron-ise** is sometimes used in Great Britain.

Paul (a man's name), distinguish from **pall** (a cloak, or a covering for a coffin).

pause (a stop), distinguish from **paws** (the feet of an animal).

pause (*v.*) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **paused, paus'ing,** NOT *pauseing.*

pav'er, pav'ier, pav'ior, pav'iour. All spellings in use, but the first is preferred.

pa-vil'ion, not *pavillion.*

paw (the foot of an animal), distinguish from **poor** (the needy), and **pore** (an opening in the skin). See PORE, *v.*

pea. Note that the *a* is silent; also, that the word has two forms in the plural **peas** and **pease** (collective).

peace (tranquillity, rest), distinguish from **piece** (a part of anything).

peace *retains* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel as in **peace'a-ble.** See -ABLE, p. 5.

peak (a point, as the top of a mountain), distinguish from **pique** (to annoy, displease).

peal (a sound as of a bell or clap of thunder), distinguish from **peel** (the skin as of a fruit; also, a baker's implement).

pear (a fruit), distinguish from **pair** (two) and from **pare** (to cut off the rind or covering of).

pearl (a gem), distinguish from **purl** (a gentle murmur or ripple, as of water).

peas'ant, not *pezant,* as pronounced. Note that the *a* in the first syllable is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

pe-can' (a hickory tree), distinguish from **pek'an** (a fox-like carnivorous quadruped).

pe-cu'ni-a-ry, not *pecuniery.*

ped'a-gog, ped'a-gogue. Both forms are in use.

ped"a-gog'ic, not *pedagoguic.*

ped'a-gog-ism, not *pedagoguism,* an old form still recorded as a variant by some dictionaries.

ped'al (to work a foot lever), distinguish from **ped'dle** (to sell).

ped'dle, not *pedle.* This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ped'dled; ped'dling,** not *pedled, pedling.*

ped'lar, ped'ler, ped'dler. The first of these is used in Great Britain; the second in the United States, with the third as an alternative. The first recorded spelling —that of Langland in "Piers Plowman"—was *pedlere* (1377). Spenser used *pedler* in the "Shepherd's Calendar" (1579), but Milton wrote *pedlar* in his comment on Griffith's Sermon in 1660 and the latter form has prevailed in Great Britain ever since.

peel. Distinguish from PEAL.

peer (a nobleman, an equal), distinguish from **pier** (a wharf).

peg *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **pegged, peg'ging.**
Pe-king', alternative form **Pe'kin.**
pel'i-can, not *pelecan* or *pellican,* both obsolete forms.
pe-lisse' (a cloak), distinguish from **po-lice'** (municipal officers of the law).
Pel"o-pon-ne'sian, not *Pelloponesian.*
Pel"o-pon-ne'sus, not *Pelloponesus.*
pelt'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **pelt'ries.**
pen *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **penned, pen'ning.**
pence (a plural of PENNY), distinguish from **pens** (a plural of PEN).
pen"chant', not *panshon,* as sometimes pronounced.
pen'cil (to write; paint; draw), distinguish from **pen'sile** (hanging). The participles of the first word are spelt **pen'ciled** or **pen'cilled, pen'cil-ing** or **pen'cil-ling,** the second form prevailing in Great Britain.
pen'dant (an ornament), distinguish from **pen'dent** (hanging down).
pen'den-cy, not *pendancy.*
pen'e-trate, not *penitrate.*
pen'i-tence, not *penitense.*
pen'i-tent, not *penitant.*
pen"i-ten'tia-ry, not *penitentiery.* See **-ARY,** p. 6.
pen'ny changes *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural **pen'nies.**
pens. Distinguish from PENCE.
pen'sile (hanging), distinguish from **pen'cil** (to mark, write, or draw with a pencil).
pe'o-ny is preferred to **pæ'o-ny.**
peo'ple *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **peo'pled, peo'pling.** See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.
per annum should always be written as two words.
per capita should always be written as two words.
per-ceiv'a-ble, not *perceiveable.*
per-ceive', not *percieve.* This verb drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **per-ceived', per-ceiv'ing.** See EI, p. 76.
per cent should always be written as two words.
per-cent'age (one word), not *percentige.*
per-cep'ti-ble, not *perceptable.* See **-IBLE,** p. 9.

per'co-late *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **per'co-lat"ed, per'co-lat"ing.**

per'co-la"tor, not *percolater.*

per con'tra should be written as two words.

per'emp-to-ry, not *peremptary* or *peremptery.*

per-en'ni-al, not *perannual.*

per-fect'i-ble, not *perfectable.* See **-IBLE,** p. 9.

per'il. The participles of this verb are written **per'iled** or **per'illed, per'il-ing** or **per'il-ling.**

pe-rim'e-ter, not *perimater.*

per"i-pa-tet'ic, not *peripetetic.*

per'i-scope, not *pairiscope.*

per'ish (to die), distinguish from **par'ish** (a church district).

per'ish-a-ble, not *perishible.* See **-ABLE,** p. 5.

per'i-style, not *perystile*—a word derived from the Greek *peri,* around, and *stylos,* pillar.

per'i-win"kle, not *perrywinkle.*

per'jure *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **per'jured, per'jur-ing.**

per'jur-er, not *perjuror.* See **JUROR.**

per'ma-nence, not *permenance.* See **-ENCE,** p. 8.

per-mis'ci-ble (admitting of being mixed: from the Latin *misceo,* mix), distinguish from **per-mis'si-ble** (that permits).

per-mis'si-ble, not *permissable.* See **-IBLE,** p. 9.

per-mit' *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **per-mit'ted, per-mit'ting.**

per'se-cute (to harass or oppress), distinguish from **pros'e-cute** (to proceed against by legal process).

per"se-cu'tion (annoyance; harassment), distinguish from **pros"e-cu'tion** (the act of prosecuting).

per"se-ver'ance, not *perseverence.*

per"se-vere', not *persivere.* This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **per"se-vered', per"se-ver'ing.**

per'son-age (a man or woman of rank or dignity), distinguish from **par'son-age** (a parson's dwelling).

per'son-al (individual, private), distinguish from **per"son-nel'** (persons collectively, as in the naval or military service).

per-suad'a-ble, not *persuadible.* See **-ABLE,** p. 5.

per-sua'si-ble, not *persuasable.* See **-IBLE,** p. 9.

per"ti-na'cious, not *pertinaceous.*

per-turb'a-ble, not *perturbible.* See -ABLE, p. 5.
per-turb'ance, not *perturbence.* See -ANCE, p. 5.
per-verse', not *purverse.*
per-vert', not *pervurt.*
per-vert'i-ble, not *pervertable.* See -IBLE, p. 9.
per'vi-ous, not *perveous.*
pes'si-mism, not *pesimism.*
pes'ti-lence, not *pestilance.* See -ENCE, p. 8.
pet *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **pet'ted, pet'-ting,** and in the adjective **pet'ta-ble.**
pet'aled, pet'alled. Both forms are in good use, but the first is preferred.
pet'it (small: a law term of which the final *t* is silent), distinguish from **pet'ty** (trifling, inferior).
pet'rel (a small sea-bird), distinguish from **pet'rol** (gasoline).
pet"ri-fac'tion (a turning to stone), distinguish from **put"re-fac'tion** (rottenness).
pet'ri-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **pet'ri-fied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **pet'ri-fy"ing.**
pet'ti-coat, not *peticoat* or *pettycote.*
pet'ty *drops* the *y* for *i* in forming the comparative and superlative **pet'ti-er, pet'ti-est.** Distinguish from PETIT.
pet'u-lance, not *petulence.* See -ANCE, p. 5.
pet'u-lant, not *petulent.* See -ANT, p. 6.
ph. This digraph usually represents the sound of *f* in words derived from the Greek as in *phlegm, philosophy, phosphorus, phrensy,* etc. In the name *Stephen* it indicates the sound of *v,* and in the English pronunciation of *nephew* it indicates the same sound. Formerly, in such words as *diphtheria, diphthong, naphtha,* it represented the sound of *p,* but now that of *f.* In *apothegm* (formerly *apophthegm*) it is usually dropped entirely, and it is silent in *phthisic* and *phthisis.* In *sapphire,* notwithstanding that the *p* is doubled, no sound but that of *f* is heard.
pha'lanx (one of the bones of the fingers or toes), forms its plural by adding *-es* or by dropping the *x* and adding *ges*—**pha-lan'ges.**
phan'tom. Old form of **fan'tom.** The word is derived from the Old French *fantôme.*

Pha'raoh (a king of Egypt), distinguish from **fa'ro** (a game).
phar"ma-ceu'tic, not *pharmacuetic.*
phar'ma-cist, not *pharmacyst.*
phar"ma-co-pœ'i-a, not *pharmacopia.*
phar'ma-cy *drops* the *y* for *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **phar'ma-cies.**
phar'ynx *drops* the *x* and adds *-ges* in forming the plural **pha-ryn'ges.**
phase (a view presented to the eye), distinguish from **faze** (to worry; vex; scare; disturb).
pheas'ant. Note that this word is pronounced as if spelled *fezant,* the *a* in the first syllable being silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and A.
phe'nix, phœnix. Both forms are in use.
phe-nom'e-non changes *on* to *a* in the plural **phe-nom'e-na.**
Phil'ip (a masculine personal name), not *Phillip.* Distinguish from **fil'lip** (a snap of the fingers).
Phil'ip-pine, not *Phillipine.*
phi-lol'o-gy (the science of language), distinguish from **phy-lol'o-gy** (the science of physical laws and development of various race-types).
phil"o-pe'na, not *filopena.*
phi-los'o-phize, not *philosophise.*
phil'ter, phil'tre (a love charm). Both forms are in use. Distinguish from **fil'ter** (a strainer).
phle-bot'o-my (blood-letting). Note that the word has but one *t.*
phlegm. Prounounced as if written *flem,* the *g* being silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.
phlox (a flowering plant), distinguish from **flocks** (groups of birds or sheep).
Phœ'nix (city in Arizona), distinguish from **phe'nix** (**1.** A sacred bird of Egyptian mythology. **2.** A prodigy).
pho-net'ic, pho-net'ics. The forms **fo-net'ic** and **fo-net'ics** are also in use.
pho'no-graph, not *phonagraph.*
phos'phor-us (a chemical element), distinguish from **phos'phor-ous** (pertaining to or obtained from phosphorus).
pho'to forms the plural by adding *s*—**pho'tos.**
pho"to-gra-vure', not *photograveur.*

phrase (a concise expression), distinguish from **fraise** (**1.** A marbler's tool. **2.** A ruff. **3.** A pancake), and from **frays** (that wears out).
phren'sy. Obsolete spelling of FRENZY.
phthal'e-in, not *phthaline.*
phthis'ic, not as pronounced *tizik.* See PH.
phthi'sis. Pronounced as if spelled *thie'sis.* See PH.
phy-lac'ter-y, not *philactery.*
phy-lol'o-gy. Distinguish from PHILOLOGY.
phys'ic (medicine), not *physick.* Distinguish from **phy-sique'** (physical build).
phys'i-cal-ly, not *physicly* as often carelessly pronounced.
phys'ick-y, not *physiky.*
pi (printing-type that has been confused), distinguish from **pie** (pastry). The verb **pi** (to confuse type) forms its past participle by adding *-ed,* **pied,** and *-eing* for the present participle **pie'ing.**
pi-a'no forms the plural by adding *s*—**pi-a'nos.** See PLURALS, p. 13.
pic'ca-lil'li (a condiment), not *piccallily.*
picked (selected), not *pickt.* Distinguish from **pick'ed** (sharp-pointed, as a stick).
pick'er-el, not *pickrel.*
pick'et (a military outpost), not *piquet,* an old form.
pick'ling, not *pickeling.*
pic'nic (*v.*). The participles are formed by adding *k* before *-ed* and *-ing,* **pic'nicked, pic'nick-ing.**
pic'ture *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pic'tured, pic'tur-ing.**
pic"tur-esque'. The final syllable is pronounced as if written *-esk.*
pidg'in-English, not *pigeon-English.*
pie (**1.** A magpie. **2.** Pastry). Distinguish from PI.
piece (a part of some thing), distinguish from **peace** (tranquillity).
pier (a wharf), distinguish from **peer** (an aristocrat; an equal).
pierce, not *peirce.* See IE, p. 9.
pig *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **pigged, pig'-ging;** also, in the noun **pig'ger-y** and the adjective **pig'gish.**
pig'eon, not *pijon.*
pig'my, not *pygmy.* The *y* changes to *i* and *-es* is added to form the plural **pig'mies.**

Pi'late (the procurator of Judea in A.D. 26), distinguish from **pi'lot** (one that steers a ship).

pil'lar, not *piller.*

pil'lo-ry *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **pil'lo-ried,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **pil'lo-ry-ing.**

pin *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **pinned, pin'ning.**

pi-na'ceous (pertaining to the pine-tree), not *pinacious.*

pinch'beck (spurious; also, pretentious imitation), distinguish from **pinch'back** (a tailor's mode of fitting a coat close in the back).

pin'nace, not *pinace.*

pin'na-cle (a summit), not *pinacle.* Distinguish from **pin'o-cle** (a card-game).

pi"o-neer', not *pionnier.*

pi'ous (religious; godly), distinguish from **Pi'us** (the name of several Popes).

pip *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **pipped, pip'ping.**

pipe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **piped, pip'ing.**

pique (to annoy; irritate; displease), distinguish from **peak** (a point or summit of a mountain), and from **pi"qué'** (a heavy cotton fabric).

pique *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **piqued, piqu'ing,** NOT *piqueing.*

pi"quet' (a card-game), distinguish from **pick'et** (a military outpost).

piramid. Misspelling of PYRAMID.

pi'rate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pi'rat-ed, pi'rat-ing.**

pis'ci-cul"ture, not *pisiculture.* Derived from the Latin, *piscis,* fish.

pis'til (the seed-bearing organ of a flowering plant), not *pistile.* Distinguish from **pis'tol** (a firearm), and from **pis"tole'** (a gold coin).

pis'tol (*v.*). The participles of this verb are written **pis'toled** or **pis'tolled, pis'tol-ing** or **pis'tol-ling.**

pit *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **pit'ted, pit'ting.**

pitch'blende, not *pichblend* or *pitchblend.*

pit'e-ous, not *pitious* or *pityous.*

pit'i-ful, not *pitifull* or *pityful.* See **-FUL.**

pit'i-less, not *pityless;* also, **pit'i-less-ly, pit'i-less-ness.**

Pitts'burgh. Frequently misspelled *Pittsburg.* The *h* is in the official name and should be retained.

pit'y changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **pit'ied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **pit'y-ing.** See also PITEOUS, PITIFUL, PITILESS.

Pi'us (the name of several Popes), distinguish from **pi'ous** (religious).

pla'cate (appease), distinguish from **plack'et** (a slit or opening in a skirt).

place (situation; rank), distinguish from **plaice** (a flat fish).

place (*v.*) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **placed, plac'ing.**

plack'et. Distinguish from PLACATE.

pla'gi-a-rist, not *playgerist,* as sometimes mispronounced.

pla'gi-a-rize *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pla'gi-a-rized, pla'gia-riz"ing.** In Great Britain, spelled **pla'gi-a-rise.**

plaice (a flat fish), distinguish from **place** (position; situation; rank).

plain (I. *a.* Clear; distinct. II. *n.* An expanse of flat country), distinguish from **plane** (1. An airplane. 2. A carpenter's smoothing tool).

plain'tiff (one who begins an action at law), distinguish from **plain'tive** (melancholy; mournful; sad).

plait (a braid; a fold), distinguish from **plate** (a dish; also, a slab, as of metal).

plan *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **planned, plan'ning.**

plane. Distinguish from PLAIN.

plaque, not *plack.*

plas'ter, not *plaister.*

plat *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **plat'ted, plat'ting.**

pla-teau' forms its plural by adding *s* or *x.* See PLURALS, p. 14.

plau"si-bil'i-ty, not *plausability.*

plau'si-ble, not *plausable.*

please (to give pleasure to), distinguish from **pleas** (pleadings in law).

pleat. A variant form of PLAIT, which see.

pledge *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pledged, pledg'ing,** and before *-ee, -er,* and sometimes *-or,* as in **pledg"ee', pledg'er, pledg'or,** the last of which is sometimes written **pledge'or.**

Plei'a-des, not *Pliades.*

plen"i-po-ten'ti-a-ry, not *plenipotentiery.* The *y* changes to *i* and *-es* is added in forming the plural **plen"i-po-ten'ti-a-ries.**

plen'te-ous, not *plentious.*

plen'ty changes *y* to *i* when *-ful* is added, **plen'ti-ful.**

pleu'ri-sy, not *pleurasy.*

plight. Note that the *gh* is silent. See GH.

plod *doubles* the *d* in forming the participles **plod'ded, plod'ding.**

plot *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **plot'ted, plot'ting.**

plow, plough. Both forms are in use but the first prevails: it is the spelling of the English Bible.

plug *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **plugged, plug'ging.**

plum (a fruit), distinguish from **plumb** (vertical). Note that the *b* of the latter word is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and B.

plumb'er, not *plummer* as pronounced. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and B.

plu-toc'ra-cy, not *plutocrasy.*

pn. Initial *p* before *n* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and P.

pneu-mat'ic. Initial *p* before *n* is silent. See P.

pneu-mo'ni-a. Initial *p* before *n* is silent. See P.

poach, poach'er, poach'y. Note that the *a* in these words is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

pod *doubles* the *d* in forming the participles **pod'ded, pod'ding.**

poise *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **poised, pois'ing.** Note that in speech *s* is sounded as *z.* See S.

poi'son. The *s* in this word and its derivatives has the sound of *z.* See S.

po'lar (pertaining to the poles), distinguish from **pol'ler** (one who votes).

po″lar-i-za′tion, po″lar-i-sa′tion. Both forms are in use; the first, in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

po′lar-ize *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **po′lar-ized, po′lar-iz″ing.** The parent-word and its derivatives are spelled with *s* instead of *z* in Great Britain.

pole (**1.** A staff. **2.** The northernmost and the southernmost points of the earth), distinguish from **poll** (**1.** The head. **2.** The voting at an election).

po-lice′ (officers of the law), distinguish from **pe-lisse′** (a cloak).

po-lice′ (*v.*) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **po-liced′, po-lic′ing.**

pol′len, not *pollin.*

pol′ler. Distinguish from POLAR.

pol-lute′, not *polute.* This verb *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pol-lut′ed, pol-lut′ing.**

pol-lut′er, not *pollutor.*

pol′y-gon, not *pollygon.*

pom′ace (crushed or ground apples), distinguish from **pum′ice** (a spongy, volcanic lava).

pome′gran-ate, not *pomgranite.*

pom′mel, not *pummel.* When a verb the participles are spelled **pom′meled** or **pom′melled, pom′mel-ing** or **pom′mel-ling.**

po′ny *changes* the *y* for *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **po′nies.**

poor (indigent; weak; feeble), distinguish from **pore** (to ponder, a small orifice in the membrane), **pour** (to cause to flow in a continuous stream). Compare PAW.

pop *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **popped, pop′ping.**

pop′lin, not *popeline,* which is the French spelling.

pop′per, not *poper.*

pop′u-lace (the people), distinguish from **pop′u-lous** (thickly peopled).

por′ce-lain, not *porcelane* or *porcelin.*

pore (to ponder over with close attention), distinguish from **pour** (to cause to flow in a continuous stream). Compare PAW.

port (a harbor), distinguish from **Porte** (the Turkish government).

port′a-ble, not *portible.*

port-fo'li-o forms the plural by adding *s*, **port-fo'li-os.**

por"tière', not *portiare.*

pos'a-ble, not *poseable.*

pose *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **posed, pos'ing.**

pos-sess', not *posess*—the medial *s* has the sound of *z.*

pos'si-ble, not *possable.*

post"-mor'tem, not *post-mortum.*

post-pone' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **post-poned', post-pon'ing**, but *retains* it before *-ment* in the noun **post-pone'ment.**

pos'tu-late *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pos'tu-lat"ed, pos'tu-lat"ing.**

pos'tur-al, not *postureal.*

pos'ture *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pos'tured, pos'tur-ing.**

po'sy, not *pozy.* This word changes *y* to *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **po'sies.**

pot *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **pot'ted, pot'ting.**

po'ta-ble, not *potible.*

po-ta'to takes *-es* in forming the plural **po-ta'toes.** See PLURALS OF NOUNS, p. 13.

Pough-keep'sie. This is an Amerind word, derived from *Peoghkepesingh*, the place where the water breaks, pronounced as if spelled *pokipsi.*

poul'ter-er, not *polterer* or *poultrer.*

poul'tice, not *poltice.* The spelling *poltis*, current in 1645 and after, indicates the modern pronunciation of the word.

poul'try (domestic fowls), distinguish from **pal'try** (trivial).

pour (to cause to flow in a continuous stream), distinguish from PORE, and compare PAW.

Pow"ha-tan', not *Powhattan.*

prac'tise, prac'tice. Both forms are in use. The first is derived from the French *practiser;* the second from the Latin *practico.*

prai'rie, not *prarie.*

prais'a-ble, not *praiseable.* The various forms assumed by this word may be used to show the vagaries of English spelling: Wyclif (1382), *preysable;* (1388), *preisable;* Fisher (1509), *praysable;* Segar (1602), *praiseable;* Davis (1716), *praisable.*

praise (commendation), distinguish from **prays** (third person singular of PRAY, to invoke), and from **preys** (third person singular of PREY, to plunder).

praise *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **praised, prais'ing.** In these words *s* has the sound of *z.*

prat'tle, not *prattel.* In forming the participles of the verb the *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing,* **prat'tled, prat'tling.**

prawn (a shrimp-like crustacean), distinguish from **prone** (prostrate).

pray (to invoke), distinguish from **prey** (to seize and devour animal food).

preach, not *preech.* Compare BREACH; BREECH.

pre-cau'tious (prudent, careful), distinguish from **pre-co'cious** (unusually forward; ripe too soon).

pre-cede' (to go in advance), not *precced.* Distinguish from **pro-ceed'** (to go on forward; continue). See RULES FOR SPELLING, p. 6.

pre-ce'dent (going before), distinguish from **prec'e-dent** (an authoritative example).

pre-ces'sion (the act of preceding), distinguish from **pro-ces'sion** (the act of proceeding; also, a cavalcade or parade).

pre'cinct, not *precint.*

pre'cious, not *preshus* as it is pronounced.

prec'i-pice, not *precipiece, precipis,* or *presipice.*

pre-cip'i-ta-ble, not *precipitatable.*

pre-cur'sor, not *precurser.*

pred'a-to-ry, not *predatery.*

pred"e-ces'sor, not *predecesser* or *preedecesser.*

pre-dom'i-nance, not *predominence.* See RULES FOR SPELLING, p. 5.

pre-fer' *doubles* the final *r* in forming the participles **pre-ferred', pre-fer'ring.**

pref'er-ence, not *preferance.*

pre-hen'si-ble, not *prehensable.*

prem'i-ces (first fruits), distinguish from **prem'ises** (buildings or land, as property).

pre-mise' (to write or speak by way of introduction), pronounced *pre-mize',* is spelled the same way as **prem'ise** (a proposition that serves as a basis of an argument), which is pronounced *prem'is.*

pre'mi-um, not *primum.*

pre"mo-ni'tion (a fore-warning), distinguish from **pre"-mu-ni'tion** (a fortifying in advance; preparedness against danger).

pre-oc'cu-pan-cy, not *preoccupency.*

pre-par'a-ble, not *prepareable* or *preparible.*

prep"a-ra'tion, not *preperation.*

pre-pare' *changes* the final *e* to *a* in forming the adjective **pre-par'a-to-ry**, and the final *y* changes to *i* before *-ly* in forming the adverb **pre-par'a-to-ri-ly.**

pre-pare' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pre-pared', pre-par'ing.**

prep"o-si'tion (a part of speech), distinguish from **prop"o-si'tion** (an offer for consideration).

pre-pos'ter-ous, not *prepostrous* as frequently carelessly pronounced.

pre-rog'a-tive, not *perogative.*

pre-sage' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pre-saged', pre-sag'ing** (not *presage-ing*). The noun is stressed **pres'age.**

pre'sci-ence, not *presience.*

pre-scribe' (to direct to be used, as a remedy), distinguish from **pro-scribe'** (to exclude; prohibit; reject).

pre-scrip'tion (a written direction), distinguish from **pro-scrip'tion** (the act of outlawing persons).

pres'ence (the state of being in evidence), distinguish from **pres'ents** (gifts; donations).

pre-sen'ti-ment (a foreboding), distinguish from **pre-sent'ment** (presentation).

pre-serv'a-ble, not *preservible.*

pre-serve' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pre-served', pre-serv'ing.**

pre-sume' *drops* the final *e* before *-able, -ed, -er, -ing* in **pre-sum'a-ble, pre-sumed', pre-sum'er, pre-sum'ing.**

pre-tence', pre-tense'. Both forms are in use; the first, chiefly in Great Britain; the second, in the United States.

pret'er-it, pret'er-ite. Both forms are in use.

pret'ty, not *pritty* as commonly pronounced. The *y* changes to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **pret'ti-er, pret'ti-est.**

pre-var'i-cate *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pre-var'i-cat"ed, pre-var'i-cat"-ing.**

pre-var'i-ca"tor, not *prevaricater.*

prey (**I.** *v.* To seize and devour animal food. **II.** *n.* Booty or anything obtained as the result of robbery and pillage), distinguish from **pray** (to invoke; entreat).

prey'ing. Distinguish from **pray'ing.** See PRAY; PREY.

preys (plunders), distinguish from **praise** (commendation) and **prays** (petitions).

price (cost), distinguish from **prize** (reward). See PRIES.

pric'ing, not *pricing.*

pride (self-esteem), distinguish from **pried** (looked closely into).

pri'er (one who pries), distinguish from **pri'or** (an officer of a monastery).

pries (inspects closely), distinguish from **prize** (a reward).

priest, not *preist.*

prig *doubles* the *g* before suffixes as in **prig'ger-y, prig'-gish, prig'gism,** etc.

prim *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **primmed, prim'ming.**

pri'ma don'na, not *primer* or *primma donna.*

pri'ma fa'ci-e. Pronounced as if spelled *pri'ma fay'shi-ee.*

pri'mage, not *primeage.*

prim'er (**1.** An elementary book. **2.** One who or that which primes a gun), distinguish from **prim'mer** (more precise; neater).

prim'i-tive, not *primative.*

prince (a son of a monarch), distinguish from **prints** (printed pictures or impressions).

prin'ci-pal (**I.** *a.* Chief, first in rank. **II.** *n.* **1.** A sum invested at interest. **2.** A chief), distinguish from **prin'ci-ple** (rule of conduct; a general truth).

pri'or. Distinguish from PRIER.

pri'vate (personal, secret), distinguish from **priv'et** (a shrub).

pri"va-teer', not *privatier.*

priv'i-lege, not *priviledge.*

priv'y changes *y* to *i* in forming the adverb **priv'i-ly,** and the noun **priv'i-ty.**

prize (a reward), distinguish from **price** (cost), and **pries** (inspects closely or forces open).

pro-ce'dure, not *proceedure.*

pro-ceed' (to go forward), distinguish from **pre-cede'** (to go in advance).

pro-ces'sion (a cavalcade or show; parade), distinguish from **pre-ces'sion** (a coming in advance of)

pro-claim', not *proclame.*

pro-claim'er, not *proclamer.*

proc"la-ma'tion, not *proclaimation.*

pro-cure' *drops* the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **pro-cur'a-ble**, before *-acy, -ation, -ator* in forming the nouns **proc'u-ra-cy, proc"u-ra'tion, proc'u-ra"tor**, and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-cured', pro-cur'ing.**

prod *doubles* the *d* in forming the participles **prod'ded, prod'ding.**

pro-dig'i-ous, not *prodigeous.*

prod'i-gy changes *y* to *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **prod'i-gies.**

pro-duc'i-ble, not *produceable.* See -IBLE, p. 9.

pro-duct'i-ble, not *productable.* See -IBLE, p. 9.

pro-fes'sor, not *professer* or *proffessor.*

prof'it *does not* double the *t* in forming the participles **prof'it-ed, prof'it-ing.**

prof'it (gain; benefit), distinguish from **proph-et** (one who foretells).

prof'it-a-ble, not *profitible.*

pro'gram, pro'gramme. Both forms are in use, but the second prevails.

pro"le-ta'ri-at, not *proletariate.*

prom'is-er, prom'is-or, prom'is-sor. These forms are all in use; the dictionaries indicate the second form as preferred.

prom'is-so"ry, not *promissary.*

pro-mot'er, not *promotor.*

pro'mul-ga"tor, not *promulgater.*

prone (inclined), distinguish from **prawn** (a shrimp-like crustacean).

pro-nounce' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-nounced', pro-nounc'ing**, but *retains* it before *-able* in forming the adjective **pro-nounce'a-ble.**

pro-nun"ci-a'tion, not *pronounciation.*

prop *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **propped, prop'ping.**

prop'a-ga-ble, not *propagatable.*

prop'a-gate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **prop'a-gat"ed, prop'a-gat"ing.**

prop'a-ga"tor, not *propagater.*

pro-pel' *doubles* the *l* in forming the participles **pro-pel'led, pro-pel'ling.**

pro-pel'lent, not *propellant.*

pro-pel'ler, not *propellor.*

pro-pense' (lying flat; prone), distinguish from **pre-pense'** (premeditated).

proph'e-cy (a prediction), distinguish from **proph'e-sy** (to predict). The final syllable of the first is *short,* that of the second is *long.*

proph'et (one who foretells), distinguish from **prof'it** (gain; benefit).

pro-pi'ti-a"tor, not *propitiater.*

prop"o-si'tion (something offered for consideration), distinguish from **prep"o-si'tion** (a part of speech).

pro-pri'e-ta-ry, not *proprietory.*

pro-pri'e-tor, not *proprieter.*

pro-pul'sion, not *propulshon* as it is pronounced.

pro ra'ta, not *pro rater.*

pro-rate' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-rat'ed, pro-rat'ing.**

pro-rogue' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-rogued', pro-rogu'ing.** The noun is spelled **pro"ro-ga'tion.**

pro-sce'ni-um, not *prosceneum.*

pro-scribe' (to outlaw; ostracize), distinguish from **pre-scribe'** (to direct the administering of a medicine, etc.).

pro-scrip'tion (the act of outlawing persons), distinguish from **pre-scrip'tion** (a written direction).

pros'e-cute (to proceed against; also, to follow up; carry on), distinguish from **per'se-cute** (to harass or worry persistently). Both of these verbs *drop* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pros'e-cut"ed, pros'e-cut"ing,** and **per'se-cut"ed, per'se-cut"ing.**

pros"e-cu'tion (the act of proceeding against), distinguish from **per"se-cu'tion** (the act of harassing).

pros'e-cu"tor, not *prosecuter.*

pros'tate (characterizing a gland), distinguish from **pros'trate** (lying at length on the ground).

pros'y, not *prosey.* The *y* changes to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **pros'i-er, pros'i-est.**

pro″té″gé′ (*masc.*), distinguish from **pro″té″gée′** (*fem.*).

pro′te-id, pro′te-in. The second syllable of these words is frequently obscured in speech—not *protid* or *protin.*

pro tem is an abbreviation of *pro tempore* (L., for the time being).

pro-test′er, not *protestor.*

pro-thon′o-ta-ry, not *prothonotory.* The form **pro-ton′-o-ta-ry** is sometimes used.

pro-tract′er, pro-tract′or. Both are in good use.

pro-trude′ *drops* the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **pro-trud′a-ble,** and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-trud′ed, pro-trud′ing.**

pro-tu′ber-ance, not *protuberence.* See -ANCE, p. 5.

prove *drops* the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **prov′a-ble** and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **proved, prov′ing.**

prov′i-dence, not *providence.* See -ENCE, p. 8.

pro-vin′cial, not *provinshal* as it is pronounced.

pro-vi′sion-a-ry, not *provisionery* or *provisionry.*

pro-voke′ *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-voked′, pro-vok′ing,** but *changes* the *k* for *c* before *-ation* and *-ative* in **prov″o-ca′tion, pro-voc′a-tive.**

prov′ost is sometimes pronounced *pro-vo′,* but the spelling does not change.

prox′y forms the plural by changing *y* for *i* and *-es* is added, **prox′ies.**

pru′dence, not *prudance.*

psalm. Note that in this word and its derivatives **psalm′-ist, psalm′o-dy,** the *p* and *l* are silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.

Psal′ter (a book of psalms), distinguish from **sal′ter** (one who sells salt). See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and P.

pseud-, pseu′do-. A prefix, from the Greek *pseudes,* false, of which the *p* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and P.

pseu′do-nym, not *pseudonyme.* See PSEUD-, PSEUDO-.

pso′ra. Note that the *p* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and P. Distinguish **pso′ra** (the itch) from **so′ra** (a bird of the rail type).

pso-ri′a-sis (the itch or some other skin disease), distinguish from **si-ri′a-sis** (sunstroke). See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.

psy'chic, psy'chi-cal. Note that the *p* is silent and that *ch* has the sound of *k*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and CH and P.

psy-chol'o-gy. Note that the *p* is silent and that *ch* has the sound of *k*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and CH and P.

ptar'mi-gan. Note that the *p* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and P. The word has two plurals, the first is spelled the same as the singular, and the second adds *s*. See IRREGULAR PLURALS, p. 3.

pter-, pter'o-. A prefix, derived from the Greek *pteron*, wing, feather, plume, of which the *p* is silent, as in **pter"o-dac'tyl, pto'ma-in, pto'ma-ine.**

puf'fin (a marine bird), distinguish from **puf'fing** (panting; blowing).

puis'ne (younger; inferior), distinguish from **pu'ny** (small and insignificant).

pul"ver-iz'a-ble, not *pulverisible.*

pul'ver-ize, not *pulvarize* or *pulverise.*

pum'ice (a spongy volcanic lava), distinguish from **pom'ace** (ground apples).

pump'kin, not *punkin.*

pun *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **punned, pun'ning.**

pu'ny. Distinguish from PUISNE.

pur'chase *drops* the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **pur'chas-a-ble** and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pur'chased, pur'chas-ing.**

pure *drops* the *e* in the verb **pu'ri-fy,** which changes *y* for *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **pu'ri-fied.**

purge *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **purged, purg'ing.**

pu'ri-fy *retains* the final *y* before *-ing* in the present participle **pu'ri-fy"ing.**

purl (a gentle murmur or ripple of water), distinguish from **pearl** (a gem).

pur-sue' *drops* the *e* before *-able, -ance,* and *-ant* in **pur-su'a-ble, pur-su'ance, pur-su'ant.** It drops it also before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pur-sued', pur-su'ing.**

pur-vey'ance, not *purveyence.*

put[1] (to set in place) *doubles* the *t* in the present participle **put'ting.** The past participle is **put,** not *putted.*

put[2] (to strike a ball in golf) *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **put'ted, put'ting.**

pu'tre-fy, not *putrify.* This verb changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **pu'tre-fied.**

put'ty changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **put'tied.**

puz'zle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **puz'zled, puz'zling;** also, before *-er,* in **puz'zler,** and *-ment* in **puz'zle-ment.**

pyc'no-style, not *picnostyle.*

pyr'a-mid, not *piramide.*

pyre, not *pire.*

py'rite, not *piryte.*

py-rog'ra-phy, not *pirography.*

pyr'rhic. Note that the *h* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

Q

q. This letter is commonly followed by *u,* whether initial, as in *queen, question,* medial, as in *conqueror, equal, liquor,* or final as in *antique, grotesque, cheque,* etc. The digraph *qu* generally has the sound of *k* followed by *w,* except when final, then it has the sound of *k.*

In words derived from the French, as *casque, coquette, croquette,* etc., the letters *qu* also have the sound of *k.*

quad'rat (a piece of type-metal), distinguish from **quad'rate** (to divide into quarters).

quad-ren'ni-al, not *quadrenial.*

quad"ri-lat'er-al (a four-sided figure), distinguish from **quad"ri-lit'er-al** (a word or root of four letters).

quad-ru'pli-cate, not *quadriplicate.*

qua'haug, not *cohog* or *kworhog* as it is sometimes pronounced.

quail, not *quale.*

quar"an-tine', not *quaranteen.* The word drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **quar"an-tined', quar"an-tin'ing.**

quar'rel. The participles of this word are written **quar'reled** or **quar'relled, quar'rel-ing** or **quar'rel-ling.** The noun is spelt **quar'rel-er** or **quar'rel-ler.**

quartz (a rock crystal), distinguish from **quarts** (plural of QUART, a measure of capacity).

quay (a wharf), distinguish from **key** (for a lock).

queen (a woman sovereign), distinguish from **quean** (in England, a bold or brazen woman; in Scotland, a buxom lassie or young woman).

que'ry changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **que'ried,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **que'ry-ing.**

ques'tion-a-ble', not *questionible.*

ques'tion-a-ry, the English form of the French word **ques"tion-naire'** (correctly pronounced *kes"tion-nare'*), not *questionery.*

queue (a file of persons; also, a braid of hair), distinguish from **cue** (a tapering rod used in playing billiards).

qui'et (still; in a state of rest; silent), distinguish from **quite** (to the fullest extent).

Quin'cy (an American family name), distinguish from **quin'sy** (inflammation of the tonsils).

quin'ine, rather than **quin'in,** because it is more widely used and is its original spelling, being introduced in 1820.

quin-quen'ni-al, not *quinquenial.*

quin-quen'ni-um, not *quinquenium.*

quin'sy, not *quin'zy.*

Quin-til'i-an (a Roman writer), distinguish from **quin-til'lion** (the cube of a million [U. S.]: 1 followed by 18 ciphers; [Gt. Brit.]: 1 followed by 30 ciphers).

quire (twentieth part of a ream of paper), distinguish from **choir** (a body of trained singers).

quire *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **quired, quir'ing.**

quite Distinguish from QUIET.

Quix'ote (Don), not as it is pronounced, *don kwiksote* or *don kehotey.*

Quix-ot'ic (foolish; unpractical), not *quickzotic.*

quiz *doubles* the *z* in forming the participles **quizzed, quiz'zing.**

quoin (a corner), distinguish from **coin** (money) and **coign** (a projecting stone).

quo'rum, not *quarum.*

quote *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **quot'ed, quot'ing.**

quo'tient, not *quoshent* as it is pronounced.

R

r. This letter is used singly or doubled in different positions in English words, as in *rat, herring, barn, beer.* In words derived from foreign languages it is sometimes indicated by *rh* and *rrh*, as in *rheumatism, catarrh, diarrhea*, etc.

R or *rh* may follow other consonants (not *l, m, n, y*), but is followed only by a vowel sound; as, *rhododendron, rhubarb*, but the *r* is dropped in *farther=father.*

rab'bet (a groove), distinguish from **rab'bit** (a hare-like burrowing animal).

race (to engage in a competitive trial of speed), distinguish from **raise**" (to lift up), and from **rays** (a number of beams of light), and **raze** (to tear down; destroy).

race (*v.*) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **raced, rac'ing.**

ra'chis adds *-es* to form the plural **ra'chis-es.**

rack (**1.** To torture. **2.** To move with a pacing motion, as a horse. **3.** To draw liquor from the lees), distinguish from **wrack** (destruction).

rac'y (pungent; lively) changes *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **rac'i-er** and the superlative **rac'i-est.**

ra'di-ance, not *radience.* See -ANCE, p. 5.

ra'di-ate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ra'di-at"ed, ra'di-at"ing.**

rad'i-cal (extreme), distinguish from **rad'i-cle** (a rootlet).

ra'di-i. Plural of RADIUS.

rad'ish (a vegetable with a pungent root), distinguish from **red'dish** (somewhat red).

ra'di-us (*sing.*) *drops* the *us* and adds *i* in forming the plural **ra'di-i.** See PLURALS, p. 14.

Raf'fa-el (an Italian painter), distinguish from **Raph'a-el** (a Bible name).

raf'fle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **raf'fled, raf'fling.**

rag (to annoy) *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **ragged, rag'ging.**

rage *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **raged, rag'ing.**

ra-gout', not as it is pronounced *ragu.*

raid, rail, not *rade, rale* as they are pronounced.

rain (water from the clouds), distinguish from **reign** (to rule), and from **rein** (part of a harness).

raise *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **raised, rais'ing.** Distinguish from RACE, RAYS, and RAZE.

rais'er (one who or that which lifts), distinguish from **ra'zor** (a shaving instrument).

rai'sin (a dried grape), distinguish from **rais'ing** (lifting).

rake *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **raked, rak'ing.**

rak'ish, not *rakeish.*

Ra'leigh, not *Rawley,* when referring to the famous English navigator Sir Walter *Raleigh.* Compare RAYLEIGH.

ral'ly changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in the past participle **ral'lied,** but *retains* it in the present participle **ral'ly-ing.**

ram *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **rammed, ram'ming,** and in the noun **ram'mer.**

ram'a-ble, not *ramible.*

ram'i-fy changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **ram'i-fied,** but *retains* it in the present participle **ram'i-fy"ing.**

range *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ranged, rang'ing,** but *retains* it before *-able* in the adjective **range'a-ble.** See -ABLE, p. 5.

ran'som, not *ransum.*

rap (to strike), distinguish from **wrap** (to cover up or pack, as the body or a parcel).

rap *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **rapped, rap'ping.**

Raph'a-el (a Bible name), distinguish from **Raf'fa-el** (an Italian painter).

rare *drops* the *e* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **rar'er, rar'est.**

rar'e-fy, not *rarify.* The *y* changes to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **rar'e-fied,** but *retains* it in the present participle **rar'e-fy"ing.**

rasp'ber"ry, not *razberry* as it is pronounced. Note the *p* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and P.

rat *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **rat'ted, rat'ting,** and before *-er* in the noun **rat'ter.**

rat'a-ble or **rate'a-ble.** Both forms are in use.

ra-tan′, rat-tan′. Both forms are in use, but the *second* is preferred.

rate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rat′ed, rat′ing.**

rat′i-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **rat′i-fied,** and before *-able* and *-er* in forming the adjectives **rat′i-fi″a-ble, rat′i-fi″er,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in **rat′i-fy″ing.**

ra-toon′, rat-toon′. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

rat-teen′ (woolen goods), not *rattine.*

rat′tle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rat′tled, rat′tling.**

rav′age, not *ravige.* This word *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rav′aged, rav′ag-ing.**

rave *drops* the *e* before *-ed,* and *-ing* in forming the participles **raved, rav′ing.**

rav′el. The participles of this verb are written **rav′eled** or **rav′elled, rav′el-ing** or **rav′el-ling.**

rav′el-ing (a thread or threads unraveled from a fabric), distinguish from **rave′lin** (an outwork of a fortification).

rav′ing, not *raveing.*

Ray′leigh (English scientist), distinguish from **Ra′leigh** (English navigator). See RALEIGH.

rays (beams of light), distinguish from **raze** (to tear down; destroy), from **race** (a course; a competitive trial of speed), and from **raise** (to lift up).

ra′zor (an implement for shaving), distinguish from **rais′er** (one who or that which lifts).

reach (to arrive at), distinguish from **retch** (to strain; heave). The first is pronounced as if written *reech.* See EA.

read (to peruse), distinguish from **reed** (a plant). Compare RED.

read (imperative of READ, learned: pronounced as if spelt *red*), distinguish from **red** (a color).

read′y *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **read′i-er, read′i-est.**

real (true; genuine), distinguish from **reel** (to stagger).

re′al-is″a-ble, re″al-i-sa′tion, re′al-ise. Forms formerly in use in Great Britain now superseded by REALIZABLE, etc., which see.

re′al-iz″a-ble, not *realisable.*

re″al-i-za′tion, not *realisation.*

re′al-ize, not *realise.* This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re′al-ized, re′al-iz″ing.**

realm, not *relm* as it is pronounced. See EA, p. 75.

ream, not *reem* as it is pronounced. See EA, p. 75.

reap, rear, reason, reave. In these words the digraph *ea* is pronounced as *e.* See EA, and SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

reave (to plunder; carry off), distinguish from **reeve** (to pass a rope through a block, hole, etc.). The participles of the former are **reaved** or **reft, reav′ing.** See EA, and SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

re-bel′ *doubles* the *l* before *-ed, -er, -ing, -ion,* and *-ious,* and its derivatives: **re-belled′, re-bel′ler, re-bel′ling, re-bel′lion, re-bel′lious.**

re-buk′a-ble, not *rebukeable.*

re-buke′ *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-buked′, re-buk′ing.**

re-but′ *doubles* the *t* before *-al, -ed, -er,* and *-ing*: **re-but′tal, re-but′ted, re-but′ter, re-but′ting.**

re-cal′ci-trance, not *recalcitrence.*

re-cal′ci-trate *drops* the final *e* before *-ant, -ed, -ing* and *-ion*: **re-cal′ci-trant, re-cal′ci-trat″ed, re-cal′ci-trat″ing, re-cal″ci-tra′tion.**

re″ca-pit′u-late *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re″ca-pit′u-lat″ed, re″ca-pit′u-lat″ing.**

re″ca-pit′u-la-to-ry, not *recapitulatary.*

re-cede′ *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-ced′ed, re-ced′ing.**

re-cede′ (to move back; withdraw; give up), distinguish from **re-seed′** (to seed or sow again). See -CEDE, p. 6.

re-ceipt′ (an acknowledgment), distinguish from **re-seat′** (to seat again). See EI, p. 7.

re-ceiv′a-ble, not *receiveable* or *recievable.* See EI, p. 7.

re-ceive′ *drops* the final *e* before *-ed, -er,* and *-ing* in **re-ceived′, re-ceiv′er, re-ceiv′ing.** See EI, p. 7.

re′cent (new; fresh), distinguish from **re-sent′** (to show displeasure or resentment).

re-cep′ta-cle, not *recepticle.*

re-cep′ti-ble, not *receptable*

re-cher″ché′. A French word frequently used in English for "much sought; choice; rare," and often misspelt.

rec'i-pe (a formula or medical prescription), distinguish from **re-ceipt'** (an acknowledgment).

re-cip'i-ence, re-cip'i-en-cy, not *recipiance, recipiancy.*

re-cip'i-ent, not *recipiant.*

re-cip'ro-cate *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-cip'ro-cat"ed, re-cip'ro-cat"ing.**

rec"i-proc'i-ty, not *reciprosity.*

re-cite' *drops* the final *e* before *-al, -ed,* and *-ing* in **re-ci'tal, re-cit'er, re-ci'ted, re-ci'ting.**

reck (to heed, to care), distinguish from **wreck** (ruin).

re-claim' (to claim back; rescue; call back), distinguish from **ré"clame'** (advertising; publicity: a French word).

rec'og-niz"a-ble, rec'og-nis"a-ble", re-cog'ni-zance, re-cog'ni-sance. All forms are in use but the *z*-forms prevail. See RECOGNIZE.

rec'og-nize, rec'og-nise. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

rec"ol-lect' (to recall to memory), distinguish from **re"-col-lect'** (to collect again). Both words are spelt alike but pronounced differently.

rec"om-mend', not *recommend.*

rec'om-pense *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rec'om-pensed, rec'om-pens"-ing.**

rec'on-cil"a-ble, rec'on-cile"a-ble. Both forms are in good use.

rec'on-cil"a-bly, not *reconcileably.*

rec'on-cile, not *reconsile.* The word *drops* its final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rec'on-ciled, rec'on-cil"ing.**

rec"on-noi'ter, rec"on-noi'tre. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. The participles of the former are formed by adding *-ed* and *-ing* to the root-word, but in the latter the final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming them, **rec"on-noi'tred, rec"on-noi'tring.**

re-course' (the right to exact payment), distinguish from **re-source'** (that which is resorted to for aid).

rec're-ate (to relax; divert; refresh), distinguish from **re"cre-ate'** (to make over or create anew).

rec'ti-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **rec'ti-fied,** and before *-cation* and *-er* in **rec"ti-fi-ca'tion, rec'ti-fi"er.**

re-cum'ben-cy, not *recumbancy.*
re-cum'bent, not *recumbant.*
re-cur' *doubles* the final *r* in all its derivatives **re-curred', re-cur'rence, re-cur'ren-cy, re-cur'rent** and **re-cur'ring.**
re-cure' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-cured', re-cur'ing,** but *retains* it before *-able* in forming the adjective **re-cure'a-ble.** Compare RECURRABLE.
re-cur'ra-ble, not *recurable.* See RECURE.
red (one of the primary colors), distinguish from **read** (past tense of READ), pronounced *red.*
red *doubles* the *d* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as, *-ed, -er, -en, -ing,* and *-ish* in **red'ded, red'der, red'den, red'den-ing, red'ding, red'dish.**
red'dish (somewhat red), distinguish from **rad'ish** (a vegetable with a pungent root).
red'dle is preferred to **rad'dle** and **rud'dle,** for red ocher, a pigment.
re-doubt'a-ble, not *redoubtible* or *redoutable.* Note that the *b* is silent. See REDOUT, and SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.
re-dout', re-doubt'. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred by modern dictionaries. The *b* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.
re-duce' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-duced', re-duc'ing.**
re-duc'i-ble, not *reducable* or *reduceable.*
re-dun'dance, not *re-dun'dence.*
re-dun'dant, not *redundent.*
re-dun'dant-ly, not *redundently.*
reed (a long grass-like plant), distinguish from **read** (to peruse, pronounced *reed*).
reek (to expose to smoke or steam; also, steam, vapor), distinguish from **wreak** (to inflict vengeance on).
reel (to stagger), distinguish from **real** (true; genuine).
reencounter. Misspelling of RENCOUNTER.
re"en-force', re"in-force'. Both forms are in use. See ENFORCE. The final *e* is dropped in forming the participles **re"en-**(or **in-**)**forced', re"en-**(or **in-**)**forc'ing.**
reeve (to pass a rope through a block, hole, etc.), distinguish from **reave** (to carry off; plunder). The participles of the former are **reeved** or **rove, reev'ing.**
re-fer' *doubles* the final *r* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-ferred', re-fer'ring.**

ref'er-a-ble, re-fer'ri-ble. Both forms are used; **not** *referrable* which is obsolete.

ref"er-ee' (one referred to), distinguish from **rev'er-ie** (day-dreaming).

ref'er-ence, not *referance* or *referrence.*

ref"er-en'dum, not *referrendum.*

re-fine' *drops* the final *e* before *-able, -age, -ed, -er, -ery, -ing* in forming the words **re-fin'a-ble, re-fin'age, re-fined', re-fin'er, re-fin'er-y, re-fin'ing,** but *retains* it in **re-fine'ment.**

re-flec'tion is sometimes spelt **re-flex'ion,** but the first prevails.

re-flex'i-ble, not *reflexable.*

re-frac'tor, not *refracter.*

re-frac'to-ry, not *refractery.*

ref'ra-ga-ble (that can be refuted), distinguish from **re-fran'gi-ble** (capable of being refracted or deflected, as light), not *refrangable.*

re-frig'er-ant, not *refrigerent.*

re-frig'er-a"tor, not *refrigerater.*

re-fuse' *drops* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **re-fus'a-ble, re-fus'al, re-fused', re-fus'ing.**

re-fute' *drops* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **re-fut'a-ble, re-fut'al, ref"u-ta'tion, re-fu'ta-to-ry, re-fut'ed, re-fut'ing.**

re'gal (fit for a king or queen; royal), distinguish from **re-gale'** (to entertain like a king; feast).

re-ga'li-a, not *regalea.*

re'gen-cy changes *y* to *i* and *-es* is added in forming the plural **re'gen-cies.**

reg'i-men (a systematized course of living), distinguish from **reg'i-ment** (a body of soldiers).

reg'nant, not *regnent.*

re-gret' *doubles* the *t* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **re-gret'ta-ble, re-gret'ted, re-gret'ting.**

reg'u-lar, not *reglar.*

reg'u-late *drops* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **reg'u-lat"ed, reg'u-lat"ing, reg"u-la'tion, reg'u-la"tive.**

reg'u-la"tor, not *regulater.*

re-hearse′ *drops* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **re-hears′a-ble, re-hears′al, re-hearsed′, re-hears′er, re-hears′ing.** Note that in these words medial *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

reign (rule; govern), distinguish from **rein** (**I.** *n.* A part of a harness; **II.** *v.* To hold in check), and from **rain** (water from the clouds). See G.

re″im-burse′, not *reemburse*. So also with its derivatives **re″im-burse′ment, re″im-burs′er.**

Reims, not *Rheims*: an erroneous spelling. The name of the city is derived from the name of the *Remi*, a Belgic tribe who founded it. The French consistently spell it *Reims*.

rein. Distinguish from REIGN.

re″in-force′. See REENFORCE.

re-joice′ *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-joiced′, re-joic′ing,** NOT *rejoiceing*.

re-lapse′, re-late′, re-lease′ all *drop* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as *-able, -ed, -er, -ing*.

re-lat′er, re-lat′or. Both forms are in use, but the latter is restricted to the practise of law

re-lax′a-ble, not *relaxible*.

re-leaf′ (to leaf again), distinguish from **re-lief′** (the act of releaving). See EA, p. 75, and EI and IE under SILENT LETTERS, pp. 3 and 9.

re-lease′ *drops* the final *e* before *-able, -ed* and *-ing*, as in **re-leas′a-ble** (not *-ible*), **re-leased′, re-leas′ing.** See EA, p. 75.

rel′e-vant, not *relevent*.

re-li′a-ble, re-li′ance. Derivatives of RELY in which the *y* changes to *i* before a suffix beginning with a vowel. See RELY.

re-lief (the act of relieving), distinguish from **re-lieve** (to free wholly or partly). See IE, p. 9.

re-ly′ changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in the past participle **re-lied′** (see RELIABLE), but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **re-ly′ing.**

rem′e-dy changes *y* to *i* before *-able, -al*, and *-ed*, as in **re-me′di-a-ble, re-me′di-al, rem′e-died,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in **rem′e-dy-ing.**

rem′e-dy changes *y* to *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **rem′e-dies.**

re-mem'ber, derived from the French *remembrer,* changes its form when followed by *-ance, -ancer,* dropping the *e* from the last syllable, as in **re-mem'brance, re-mem'bran-cer.**

rem"i-nis'cence, not *remenisence.*

rem"i-nis'cent, not *remaniscent.*

re-mis'si-ble, not *remissable.*

re-mit' *doubles* the *t* before a suffix beginning with a vowel as *-able, -ance, -ed, -ent, -er, -ing,* and *-or,* as in **re-mit'ta-ble, re-mit'tance, re-mit'ted, re-mit'tent, re-mit'ter, re-mit'ting, re-mit'tor.**

re-mit'ta-ble, not *remittible.*

re-mit'tance, not *remittence.*

re-move' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-moved', re-mov'ing,** and before *-able* in forming the adjective **re-mov'a-ble.**

Re-nais"sance' is preferred to **re-nas'cence.**

ren-coun'ter, not *reencounter.*

ren'dez-vous. Note the *z* and the *s* in this word, the presence of which is not indicated in modern American pronunciation. NOT *rendevous.*

ren'o-vate *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ren'o-vat"ed, ren'o-vat"ing.**

re-pair', not *repare.*

rep'a-ra-ble, re-pair'a-ble. Both forms are in good use.

rep'a-ra-bly, not *repairably.*

rep"a-ra'tion, not *repairation* or *reparition.*

re-pel' *doubles* the *l* in forming the participles **re-pelled', re-pel'ling.**

re-pel'lence, not *repellance.*

re-pel'lent, not *repellant.*

re-pent'ance, not *repentense.*

rep"er-toire'. A French word of which the equivalent in English is **rep'er-to"ry.**

re-place' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-placed', re-plac'ing.**

re-place'a-ble, not *replacible.*

re-plev'y *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-able* in forming the adjective **re-plev'i-a-ble,** and before *-ed* in forming the past participle **re-plev'ied.**

rep'li-ca, not *replicca* or *repplica.*

re-ply' *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **re-plied',** but *retains* it in the present participle **re-ply'ing.**

re-port'or-i-al, not *repetorial.*
rep"re-hen'si-ble, not *reprehensable.*
rep"re-hen'so-ry, not *reprehensery.*
re-prieve', not *repreive.* See IE, p. 9. This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-prieved', re-priev'ing.**
re-pris'al, not *reprizal.*
re-proach'. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.
re-proof' (an admonition or censure), distinguish from **re-prove'** (to express disapproval of).
re-prov'a-ble, not *reproveable.*
rep'tile, not *reptil.*
re-pug'nance, not *repugnence.*
re-pug'nant, not *repugnent.*
re-pute' *drops* the final *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **rep'u-ta-ble,** and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-put'ed, re-put'ing.**
re-quest'er, not *requestor.*
re'qui-em. Note that the word is pronounced as if written *ree'qui-em* or *rek'wi-em* but not so spelled. See Q.
re-quire' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-quired', re-quir'ing,** and before *-able* in forming the adjective **re-quir'a-ble.** See Q.
req'ui-site, not *requisit.* See Q.
re-quite' *drops* the final *e* before *-able* and *-al* in **re-quit'a-ble** and **re-quit'al,** and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-quit'ed, re-quit'ing.** See Q.
re-scind'. Note that the *c* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.
re-scis'sion, not *recission.* Note that the *c* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.
res'cue *drops* the final *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **res'cu-a-ble,** and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **res'cued, res'cu-ing.**
re-search', not *reserch* as pronounced. Note that the *a* is silent. See EA, p. 75.
re-seat' (to seat again), distinguish from **re-ceipt'** (to make an acknowledgment).
re-sem'ble *drops* the final *e* before *-ance* in forming the noun **re-sem'blance**—not *resemblence,* and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-sem'bled, re-sem'bling.**

re-sent' (to show resentment). Note that the *s* is sounded as *z*. Distinguish from **re'cent** (new; fresh).

re-side' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-sid'ed, re-sid'ing.**

res'i-dence (a dwelling), distinguish from **res'i-dents** (inhabitants).

re-sign', not *rezine* as it is pronounced, or *resine*; the *g* being silent. There are two words of this spelling; the first means to give up or retire from; the second, to sign again.

re'sin (semi-liquid exudation of the pine-tree), distinguish from **ro'sin** (solid product of turpentine).

re-sis'tance, not *resistence.*

re-sist'i-ble, not *resistable.*

re-solv'a-ble, not *resolveable.*

re-source' (available property), distinguish from **re-course'** (the right to exact payment).

re-spon'si-ble, not *responsable.*

rest (peace; quiet), distinguish from **wrest** (to twist; to wrench), of which the *w* is silent.

res'tau-rant, not *restorant.*

re-stor'a-tive, not *restaurative.*

ré"su"mé' (a recapitulation or summary: a French word), distinguish from **re-sume'** (to begin again).

re-sus'ci-tate, not *resusitate.*

re-tal'i-a-to-ry, not *retaliatary.*

retch (to try to vomit), distinguish from **wretch** (a despicable person), of which the *w* is silent.

ret'i-cence, not *reticense.*

ret'i-cule (a small net bag), distinguish from **rid'i-cule** (derision).

re-treat'. Note that the *a* is silent. See EA.

re-trieve' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-trieved', re-triev'ing.** See IE, p. 9.

re-triev'a-ble, not *retrieveable.*

Reu'ben, not *Ruben.*

rev"eil-le, not *revely* as pronounced. Alternative forms of French origin are **re-veil"lé', re-veil"lée'.**

rev'el. The participles of this verb are written **rev'eled** or **rev'elled, rev'el-ing** or **rev'el-ling.**

re-venge'ful, not *revengeful.*

re-veng'ing, not *revengeing.*

re-vere' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-vered', re-ver'ing.**

rev'er-end (worthy of reverence, as a clergyman), distinguish from **rev'er-ent** (having a feeling of reverence for).

rev'er-ie, rev'er-y. Both forms are in good use.

re-ver'se *drops* the final *e* before *-able, -al, -ed, -ible, -ing* in **re-vers'a-ble, re-versed', re-ver'si-ble, re-ver'sing.**

re-ver'sion-a-ry, not *reversionery.*

re-vert'i-ble, not *revertable.*

re-vise' not *revize.*

re-vi'sion-a-ry, not *revisionery.*

rev'o-ca-ble is preferred to **re-vok'a-ble** or **re-voke'a-ble.**

re-volve' *drops* the final *e* before *-able* in the adjective **re-volv'a-ble,** not *revolveable,* and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-volved', re-volv'ing.**

rh. A digraph that occurs in words derived from the Greek. See H and R. *H* is always silent when it follows *r* at the beginning of a word, as in *rhapsody, rhetoric, rhythm,* etc., and elsewhere in the same syllable, as *scirrhus.* It is also silent when a final letter, as in *ah, hallelujah, catarrh, myrrh,* etc.

rhap'so-dy is derived from the Greek *rhapto,* sew and *ōde,* ode. Note the *h* which is silent (see RH). The *y* changes to *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural **rhap'so-dies.**

Rheims. Common misspelling of **Reims,** which see.

rhe'o-stat, from the Greek *rheo,* flow and *statos* standing. Note the *h* which is silent. See RH.

rhet'o-ric, rheu'ma-tism, rhi-ni'tis, rhi-noc'e-ros. All words derived from the Greek in which the *h* is silent in English. See RH.

Rhone (a river in southern France), distinguish from **roan** (a dark color), and **rown** (impelled by oars).

rhu'barb, not *rubarb.*

rhyme. Misspelling of **rime** which see.

rhythm, not *rythm.*

rhyth'mic, not *rythmic.*

rice (a cereal), distinguish from **rise** (to ascend).

ric″o-chet'. The participles of this verb are written **ric″o-chet'ed** or **ric″o-chet'ted; ric″o-chet'ing** or **ric″o-chet'ting.**

rid'i-cule (derision) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rid'i-culed, rid'i-cul″ing.** Distinguish from **ret'i-cule** (a small net bag).

ri-dic'u-lous, not *rediculous.*

Re-diculous, madam? I suppose you mean *ridiculous:* let me have no more of that. SWIFT *Journal to Stella,* Dec. 14, 1710.

rig'ger (a fitter of ships; rigging), distinguish from **rig'or** (muscular rigidity).

right (correct; true), distinguish from **rite** (a ceremony), or from **wright** (a mechanic), and from **write** (to inscribe).

rime, not *rhyme* which is incorrect, the word being derived from the Anglo-Saxon *riman,* count; and from *rim,* number.

ring (to sound; a circle), distinguish from **wring** (to twist).

rinse *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rinsed, rins'ing.**

Ri'o de Ja-nei'ro. Note the spelling of the second syllable of *Janeiro.* It is spelt *nei* but pronounced *ne.*

ri'ot (tumult), distinguish from **ry'ot** (tiller of the soil).

rip *doubles* the *p* in the participles **ripped, rip'ping.**

ris'i-ble, not *risable.*

rite. Distinguish from RIGHT, WRIGHT, and WRITE.

ri'val. The participles of the verb are written **ri'valed** or **ri'valled, ri'val-ing** or **ri'val-ling.**

riv'et. The participles of this verb are written **riv'et-ed** or **riv'et-ted, riv'et-ing** or **riv'et-ting.**

road, roam, roan. Note that the *a* in these words is silent. Compare LOAD, LOAM, LOAN, and see SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

road (a highway or street), distinguish from **rode** (past tense of RIDE), and from **rowed** (past tense of ROW).

roam (to wander), distinguish from **Rome** (the capital of Italy).

roan. Distinguish from RHONE and ROWN.

roar. A word of one syllable pronounced as if spelt *rore.* Note that the *a* is silent, and distinguish from **raw** (uncooked; crude). See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

rob *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **rob'bed, rob'bing.**

robe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rob'ed, rob'ing.**

roe (a female deer), distinguish from **row** (a tier).

roes (female deer), distinguish from **rose** (a flower).

rôle (a part in a play), distinguish from **roll** (1. A register. 2. To rotate).

Rome. Distinguish from ROAM.

rood (fourth part of an acre), distinguish from **rude** (rough; uncultivated).

roof as a noun takes *s* to form the plural, but the verb forms its participles by adding *-ed* and *-ing*: **roofed, roof'ing.**

root (as of a plant), distinguish from **route** (direction; way).

root'ed (with the roots grown in), distinguish from **rout'ed** (sent by a specified direction).

rose (a flower), distinguish from **roes** (female deer, *pl.*).

ros'in. Distinguish from RESIN.

rote (mechanical repetition), distinguish from **wrote** (past tense of WRITE).

rough (uneven; rude), distinguish from **ruff** (an article of dress).

rouse (to stir up), distinguish from **rows** (noisy disturbances). The verb **rouse** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **roused, rous'ing.**

route (direction; way), distinguish from **root** (as of a plant), and from **rout** (pronounced to rime with *shout*—to remove, as uneven or waste metal, from a plate). The verb **route** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rout'ed, rout'ing,** NOT *routeing.*

rout'ed (sent by a specified direction; as *routed* via Denver), distinguish from **root'ed** (with roots grown in).

rou-tine', not *ruteen* as pronounced.

rout'ing, not *routeing.*

row (a tier), distinguish from **roe** (a female deer or the spawn of fish).

rowed (did ROW), distinguish from **road** (a highway or a street), and **rode** (did RIDE).

rown. Distinguish from RHONE and ROAN.

rows. Distinguish from ROUSE.

ru'ble, rou'ble. Both are in use, but the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

ruch'ing, not *rucheing.*

rude. Distinguish from ROOD.

rue *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rued, ru'ing,** NOT *rueing.*

rues (repents), distinguish from **ruse** (a trick; cunning).

ruff. Distinguish from ROUGH.

rug'ged, not *ruged.*

rul'a-ble, not *rule'a-ble.*

rule *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ruled, rul'ing.**

ru'mor, ru'mour. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

run *doubles* the *n* before *-ing* in forming the present participle **run'ning.** The past participle is **ran.**

rung (sounded), distinguish from **wrung** (twisted).

ruse (a trick; cunning), distinguish from **rues** (repents).

rus'ty *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **rust'i-er, rust'i-est.**

rut *doubles* the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rut'ted, rut'ting.**

ru"ta-ba'ga, not *rootabayga* as it is pronounced.

rye (a grain), distinguish from **wry** (crooked).

ry'ot (a tiller of the soil), distinguish from **ri'ot** (tumult).

ryme, rythm, etc. Misspellings of RIME, RHYTHM.

S

s. The printed *s* following a vowel or a voiced consonant is generally pronounced *z* as in *bobs, cars, does, boxes,* but there are many exceptions as in *this, thus, house.* See Z. Common substitutes for *s* are *c* (before any high vowel), *ce* for final, *sc, se; racy, race, scent, tense.* At the end of a monosyllable *s* is generally doubled: *mass, less, miss.* See S, pp. 3 and 11.

Sab'a-oth (armies, hosts). Distinguish from **sab'bath** (the seventh day of the week).

sa'ber, sa'bre. Both spellings are in use; the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain

sa"bot'. Note that the *t* is silent.

sa"bo"tage', not *sabotige.* Note that the *t* is *not* silent.

sac'cha-rin, not *sacarin* or *sacharin,* but the form **sac'-cha-rine** is frequently used.

sac'ra-ment, not *sacriment.*

sac'ri-fice, not *sacrafice.*

sac'ri-lege, not *sacralege* or *sacriledge.*

sac"ri-le'gious, not *sacreligious.*

sad *doubles* the *d* in forming the comparative or superlative **sad'der, sad'dest.**

sad'dle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sad'dled, sad'dling.**

safe *retains* the final *e* before *-ty,* **safe'ty.**

sa-ga'cious, not *sagaceous.*

sail (one of a ship's canvas sheets), distinguish from **sale** (the act of selling).

sail'er (a thing that sails), distinguish from **sail'or** (a mariner).

saith (said), distinguish from **Seth** (a masculine personal name).

sal'a-ble, not *saleable.*

sa-la'cious, not *salaceous.*

sal'a-ry (wages), distinguish from **cel'er-y** (a plant).

sal'a-ry *changes* the *y* to *i* in forming the plural **sal'a-ries.**

sale. Distinguish from SAIL.

sal"e-ra'tus, not *salaratus.*

Salis'bur-y, not *Salisbury* as it is pronounced.

sal'ly *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sal'lied, sal'ly-ing.**

salm, salter, seudonym, sora, soriasis, sychic, sychology. Misspellings of PSALM, PSALTER, PSEUDONYM, PSORA, PSORIASIS, PSYCHIC, PSYCHOLOGY.

salm'on. The *l* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 11.

salt'er (one who sells salt), distinguish from **Psal'ter** (the book of psalms).

salt"pe'ter, salt"pe'tre. Both forms are in use.

sal'u-ta-ry, not *salutory.*

sa-lute' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sa-lut'ed, sa-lut'ing.**

sal'vage (the saving of a ship from wreck), not *salvedge.* Distinguish from **sel'vage** (the edge of a woven fabric).

san"a-to'ri-um, san"i-ta'ri-um. Both forms are in use. Distinguish from **san"i-to'ri-um,** a corrupt spelling.

san'a-to-ry (curative of health), distinguish from **san'i-ta-ry** (preservative of health).

sane (sound; healthy), distinguish from **Seine** (a river in France).

sand'wich. Note the *d* that is frequently omitted when the word is incorrectly pronounced.

san'gui-na-ry *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ly* and *-ness* in **san'gui-na-ri-ly, san'gui-na-ri-ness.**

san-guin'e-ous, not *sanguinious.*

san'i-ta-ry. Distinguish from SANATORY.

sap *doubles* the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sapped, sap'ping.**

Saph'o, Sap'pho. Both forms are in use, but the second is preferred.

sa-pon'i-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **sa-pon'i-fied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present **sa-pon'i-fy"ing.**

sap'phire, not *saphire* or *saf'fire.*

sar-don'ic (insincere), distinguish from **sar'do-nyx** (a variety of onyx).

Sar'gent (a family name), distinguish from **ser'geant** (a military officer).

sar"sa-pa-ril'la, not *sasparilla.*

sarse'net, not *sarcenette.*

Sas-katch'e-wan. A province, river, and town in Canada.

Sas"ka-toon', not *Saskatune.*

sas'sa-fras, not *sasafras.*

Sas'se-nach, not *Sasanack.* The word is from the Gaelic *Sasunnach*, Saxon.

sat'el-lite, not *satalite.*

sat'ire (a painted poem), distinguish from **sat'yr** (a sylvan god).

sat'i-rize, sat'i-rise. Both forms are used; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

sat'is-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **sat'is-fied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **sat'is-fy"ing.**

sauce (a relish), distinguish from **source** (origin).

Sault Sainte Marie. Pronounced as if spelled *Soo Saint Mary.*

sau'sage, not *saussage.*

sav'a-ble, save'a-ble. Both forms are used, but the first is the original and the preferred form.

sa-van'na (a treeless plain), distinguish from **Sa-van'nah** (a city in Georgia).

sa"vant'. Please note that the *t* is silent.

save *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **saved, sav'ing.**

sav'er (one who saves), distinguish from **sa'vor** (flavor)—the form **sa'vour** is used in Great Britain.

Sav'ior, Sav'iour. Both forms are in use.

saw (a toothed cutting-instrument), distinguish from **sore** (a bodily hurt or injury).

sawed (having been cut with a saw), distinguish from SOARED and SWORD.

sc is a common substitute for *s* in English words as in *scene, scent, scintillate*, etc.

scald (to burn with hot water), distinguish from **scold** (to reprove).

scale *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scaled, scal'ing.**

sca'lene, not *scaleen.*

scan'dal-ise, scan'dal-ize. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States.

scan'sion, not *scanshon.*

scant'y *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **scant'i-er, scant'i-est.**

scene (part of a play; a view), distinguish from **seen** (beheld).

scent (an odor), distinguish from **cent** (a small coin), **sent** (did send)

scep'ter, scep'tre. Both forms are in use.

scep'tic, scep'ti-cal, scep'ti-cism. These words have alternative forms, SKEPTIC, SKEPTICAL, etc., which see.

sched'ule. Pronounced as if spelled *skedule* in the United States or *shedule* in Great Britain. See CH, p. 52.

scheme. Pronounced as if spelled *skeem.* See CH, p. 52.

schism, not *sizm* as pronounced. See CH, p. 52.

schist, not *shist* as it is pronounced. See CH, p. 52.

schol'ar, school, schoon'er. In these words and their derivatives the *ch* is pronounced as *k.* See CH, p. 52.

sci-at'i-ca. The *c* in the first syllable is silent. See SC.

sci'ence. The *c* in the first syllable is silent. See SC.

Scil'ly (a group of islands southwest of England), distinguish from **sil'ly** (simple; foolish).

sci'o-list, sci'on, scis'sors, scis'sure. Note that the *c* in these words is silent. See SC.

scis'sored, not *scissared.* The Shakespearean spelling noted below is obsolete.

> *Unscissar'd* shall this hair of mine remain
> Though I show ill in 't.
> SHAKESPEARE *Pericles,* act. iii, sc. 3.

scle-ro'sis, not *sklerosis* as pronounced.

scold (to reprove), distinguish from **scald** (to burn with water).

score *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scored, scor'ing.**

scrab'ble *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scrab'bled, scrab'bling.**

scrape *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scraped, scrap'ing.**

scrawl (bad writing), distinguish from **scroll** (a roll of paper).

scrub *doubles* the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scrubbed, scrub'bing.**

scru'ple *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scru'pled, scru'pling.**

scru'ti-nize, not *scrutinise.* The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scru'ti-nized, scru'ti-niz"ing.**

scull (a small boat; a spoon-oar), distinguish from **skull** (that part of the head that encloses the brain).

sculp'tor (a carver), distinguish from **sculp'ture** (a carving).

scum *doubles* the *m* before *-ed,* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scummed, scum'ming.**

scur'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **scur'ried,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **scur'ry-ing.**

scur'vy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **scur'vi-er, scur'vi-est.**

scythe. Note that the *c* is silent. See SC.

sea (a great body of salt water), distinguish from **see** (to behold).

seal (an animal), distinguish from **ceil** (to furnish with a ceiling).

seam (a line made by the junction of parts), distinguish from **seem** (appear).

seam (to join by sewing), distinguish from **seem** (to appear).

sear, sere (to dry, burn or wither). Both forms are used, but the first prevails. Distinguish from **cere** (to wax) and from **seer** (a prophet).

search. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS.

seas (plural of SEA), distinguish from **cease** (to stop) and from **seize** (to take hold of).

sea'son (to flavor), distinguish from **sei'zin** (take possession).

se-cede', not *seceed.* Compare SUCCEED and see -EDE, p. 6. The word *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **seced'ed, se-ced'ing.**

se-ces'sion, not *sessession.*

se-clude' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **se-clud'ed, se-clud'ing.**

sec're-ta-ry *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural **sec're-ta-ries,** but *retains* the *y* before *-ship* in **sec're-ta-ry-ship.**

se-crete', not *secreet.* Compare DISCREET.

sects (dissenting religious bodies), distinguish from **sex** (physical difference between male and female).

se-cure' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **se-cured', se-cur'ing,** but *retains* it before *-ly* in forming the adverb **se-cure'ly.**

se-date', not *seedate.*

sed'en-ta-ry, not *sedentery.*

sed'i-ment, not *sedament.*

se-duce' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **se-duced', se-duc'ing.**

see. Distinguish from SEA.

seed (to sow with seed), distinguish from **cede** (to give up).

seel (to close the eyes; blind), distinguish from **seal** (to stamp with a seal; also, to close).

seem. Distinguish from SEAM.

seen (beheld), distinguish from **scene** (a view; also, a section of a play).

seer (a prophet), distinguish from **cere** (to wax), **sear** (to burn the surface).

Seid'litz, not *Sedlits.*

seige. Misspelling of SIEGE.

sei'gnior (a nobleman), distinguish from **se'nior** (the elder).

seine (**1.** A fishing-net. **2.** [S-] A river in France), distinguish from **sane** (sound; healthy).

seis'mic. Note the first syllable in which the *e* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 7, and E.

seize (to take hold of), distinguish from **cease** (to stop), **seas** (plural of SEA). The verb **seize** *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **seized, seiz'ing,** and before *-able* in forming the adjective **seiz'a-ble.**

sei'zin (property, as land), distinguish from **sea'son** (to flavor).

self *changes* the *f* to *v* and adds *es* to form the plural **selves.**

sell (dispose of by sale), distinguish from **cell** (a small chamber). The past participle of **sell** is irregular—**sold,** the present participle is regular—**sell'ing.**

sellable. Misspelling of SALABLE.

sell'er (one who sells), distinguish from **cel'lar** (a room underground).

sel'vage (an edge of a woven fabric), distinguish from **sal'vage** (the saving of a ship).
sem'a-phore, not *semafore.*
sem'i-na-ry, not *semanary.*
se-nes'cence, not *senesence.*
se-nes'cent, not *senascent.* See NASCENT.
se'nior. Distinguish from SEIGNIOR.
se-ñor' (a Spanish title of address), distinguish from **se-nhor'** (a Portuguese title of address), and from **si'gnor** (Anglicized form of the Italian title of address, *signore*).
sense *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sensed, sens'ing.**
sen'si-ble, not *senseable* or *sensable.*
sen'si-tive, not *sensative.*
sen'su-al (lewd; carnal), distinguish from **sen'su-ous** (appealing to the feelings).
sent (did send), distinguish from **cent** (a small coin), and from **scent** (a perfume or odor).
sen'tence, not *sentense.* Compare TENSE.
sen-ten'tious, not *sentencious.*
sen'ti-ent, not *sentiant.*
sen'try (a guard), distinguish from **cen'tau-ry** (a plant), and from **cen'tu-ry** (a hundred years).
sep'a-ra-ble, not *seperable.*
sep'a-rate, not *seperate,* a very common error. See the following.
sep'a-rate *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sep'a-rat"ed, sep'a-rat"ing,** but *retains* it before *-ly* and *-ness* in **sep'a-rate-ly, sep'a-rate-ness.**
sep"a-ra'tion, not *seperation.*
sep'a-ra"tor, not *separater* or *seperater.*
sep-ten'ni-al, not *septenneal.*
sep'ul-cher, sep'ul-chre. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
se-ques'ter, not *sequestre.*
Se-quoi'a, not *sequoya.*
se-ra'glio. Note that the *g* is silent in English. The word is derived from the Italian *serraglio,* but in English *retains* only one *r,* and is pronounced as if spelt *seralio.*
sere. Distinguish from CERE and SEER.
se-rene', not *sereen.*

serf (a peasant, slave or bondman), distinguish from **surf** (the swell of the sea breaking on the shore).

serge (a woolen cloth), distinguish from **surge** (a wave; a rolling motion).

ser'geant (a military officer), distinguish from **Sar'gent** (a personal name).

se'ri-al (a connected succession), distinguish from **ce're-al** (a grain).

se'ries (succession), distinguish from **ce're-ous** (waxen), **se'ri-ous** (grave; solemn), **Sir'i-us** (a star).

ser'rate (formed like a saw), distinguish from **ce'rate** (a salve).

serve *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **served, serv'ing,** but *retains* it in forming the adjective **ser'vice-a-ble** and its derivatives **ser'vice-a-bly, ser'vice-a-ble-ness.**

ses'sion (the time during which a deliberative assembly remains sitting), distinguish from **ces'sion** (surrender; assignment).

set *doubles* the *t* in forming the present participle **set'ting** and the noun **set'ter.** The past participle is **set.**

Seth (a man's name), distinguish from **saith** (said).

set'tle *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **set'tled, set'tling,** but *retains* it before *-ment* in forming the noun **settle'ment.**

Sev'ille (a city in Spain), distinguish from **civ'il** (obliging; kind).

sew (to fasten with needle and thread), distinguish from **so** (in such a manner), and from **sow** (to scatter seed).

sew'age (waste matter carried off in sewers), distinguish from **sew'er-age** (a system of sewers).

sew'er (a drain), distinguish from **su'er** (one who sues).

sex (male or female), distinguish from **sects** (bodies of religious dissenters).

sfere, sferic, sferoid, sfincter, sfinx. Misspellings of SPHERE, SPHERIC, etc., see under SPHERE.

sh. This digraph is the sign of the elementary sound closing in *wish,* opening in *she.* It is represented in the common spelling by: (1) *sh,* as in *show, shadow, wash,* etc.; (2) *si, ssi, s(e), sc(i),* before an unaccented vowel, as in *pension, Asia, nauseate, conscience,* so in *sugar, issue,* etc.; (3) *ti,* before an unaccented vowel, as in *partial, patient, nation,* etc.; (4) *c(i), ce, che,* before an unaccented vowel, as in *provincial, ancient, vicious*

etc., *ocean,* etc., *luncheon,* etc. If *sh* sounds of this sort occur in two successive syllables, the former is often sounded *s,* as in "pronunc*ia*tion"; (5) *ch* after *l, r* final, as in *filch, pinch,* pronounced *sh* by British authorities, and in many strange words mainly from the French, as *champagne, charade, chevalier,* etc., *capuchin, machine,* etc. Compare CH.

shab'by *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **shab'bi-er, shab'bi-est,** and also before *-ly* and *-ness* as in **shab'bi-ly, shab'bi-ness.**

shack'le *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shack'led, shack'ling.**

shade *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shad'ed, shad'ing.**

shad'y *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **shad'i-er, shad'i-est,** and also before *-ly* and *-ness* in **shad'i-ly, shad'i-ness.**

shag *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **shagged, shag'ging** and the adjective **shag'gy** which *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the participles **shag'gi-er, shag'gi-est.**

shake. The parts of this verb are irregular: **shook, shak'en, shak'ing.** The adjective **shak'y** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **shak'i-er, shak'i-est,** and the derivatives **shak'i-ly, shak'i-ness.**

sham *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **shammed, sham'ming** and the noun **sham'mer.**

shame *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shamed, sham'ing,** but *retains* it before *-ful, -less, -ly,* and *-ness* in **shame'ful, shame'less, shame'ful-ly, shame'ful-ness.**

sham-poo' *retains* both final vowels before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sham-pooed', sham-poo'-ing,** and before *-er* in the noun **sham-poo'er.**

shape *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shaped, shap'ing.** A past-participial form occasionally used is **shap'en.**

share *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the past participles **shared, shar'ing.**

shave *drops* the *e* before *-ed, -en,* and *-ing* in forming the parts of the verb as **shaved, shav'en, shav'ing.**

shawl (a large square wrap of cloth), distinguish from **shoal** (shallow).

sheaf *changes* the *f* to *v* and *es* is added to form the plural **sheaves.** Compare ROOF.

shear (cut close with shears), distinguish from **sheer** (exceedingly thin; absolute). Note that the parts of **shear** are irregular being **sheared** or **shore** in the preterit, **sheared** or **shorn** in the past participle, and **shear'ing** in the present participle.

shears. See under SHEERS.

sheath (a scabbard), distinguish from **sheathe** (to cover). The latter *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sheathed, sheath'ing.**

shed *doubles* the *d* in forming the present participle **shed'ding** and the noun **shed'der.**

sheep. The singular and the plural of this word are identical in spelling.

sheer. Distinguish from SHEAR.

sheers (a hoisting tackle of spars, ropes and pulleys), distinguish from **shears** (a scissor-like clipping or cutting instrument).

shelf *changes* the *f* to *v* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **shelves.**

shel-lac' adds *k* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shel-lacked', shel-lack'ing.**

shep'herd, not *shepard* or *shepperd.*

sher'iff-al-ty, shriev'al-ty both *change* the *y* to *i* and add *es* in forming the plural **sher'iff-al-ties, shriev'al-ties.**

sher'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **sher'ries.**

shield, not *shield.* See EI and IE, pp. 7 and 9.

shil-la'lah, shil-le'lagh, shil-le'lah, shil-la'ly. All forms are used, but as the word is derived from *Shillelagh,* the Irish barony, and this spelling should be preferred.

shil'ly-shal"ly *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **shil'ly-shal"lied,** and before *-er* in the noun **shil'ly-shal"li-er.**

shin *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **shinned, shin'ning.**

shine *drops* the *e* before *-ing* in forming the present participle **shin'ing.** The past participle is formed by changing *i* to *o,* **shone.**

shin'gle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shin'gled, shin'gling.**

ship *doubles* the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shipped, ship'ping,** and before *-er* in the noun **ship'per.**

shoal. Distinguish from SHAWL.

shoe *retains* the final vowel before *-ing* in forming the present participle **shoe'ing.** The past participle is **shod** or **shod'den.**

sho'er (one who shoes, as a blacksmith), distinguish from **shoo'er** (one who scares away birds), and from **sure** (certain).

shoo'ing (the act of scaring away birds), distinguish from **shoe'ing** (the act of putting shoes on horses, etc.).

shoot (**1.** To discharge a projectile from a firearm. **2.** A young plant), distinguish from **chute** (an inclined trough).

shoot. The past participle of the verb is **shot,** NOT *shooted;* the present participle is **shooting.**

shop *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **shopped, shop'ping** and before *-er* in the noun **shop'per.**

shore *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shored, shor'ing.**

shor'ing (*n.*), not *shoreing.*

shot (to load with shot, as a firearm) *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **shot'ted, shot'ting.**

shot (*n.*). The plural is **shot** or **shots.**

should. Note that the *l* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and L.

shove *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shoved, shov'ing,** and before *-er* in forming the noun **shov'er.**

shov'el (a scoop for digging), distinguish from **shuf'fle** (to confuse; hesitate; evade).

show. The parts of this verb are **showed** (preterit), **shown** or **showed** (past participle), **show'ing** (present participle).

shred *doubles* the *d* in forming the past participle **shred'ded,** but the verb has an alternative **shred.** The *d* is doubled in the present participle **shred'ding.**

shriek, not *shreik.* See EI and IE, pp. 7 and 9.

shrine *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shrined, shrin'ing.**

shrink. The parts of this verb are irregular. The preterit is **shrank** or **shrunk**; the past participle, **shrunk** or **shrunk'en**; the present participle, **shrink'ing.** The past participial form **shrunked** is now obsolete.

shrive. The parts of this verb are **shrove** or **shrived** (preterit); **shriv'en** or **shrived** (past participle), and **shriv'ing** (present participle).

shriv'el. The participles are spelt **shriv'eled** or **shriv'elled, shriv'el-ing** or **shriv'el-ling.**

shrub *doubles* the *b* in the nouns **shrub'ber-y, shrub'biness,** and in the adjective **shrub'by** which *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **shrub'bi-er, shrub'bi-est.**

shrug *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **shrugged, shrug'ging.**

shuf'fle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shuf'fled, shuf'fling** and before *-er* in the noun **shuf'fler.**

shun *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **shunned, shun'ning,** and in the noun **shun'ner.**

shut. The past participles is **shut**, not *shutted*, but the present participle is formed by doubling the *t* and adding *-ing*, **shut'ting.** In the noun the *t* is doubled and *-er* is added, **shut'ter.**

shy (*a.*). The comparative and superlative of this word has two forms: **shy'er** or **shi'er, shy'est** or **shi'est.**

shy (*v.*) *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **shied,** but it is retained before *-ing* in forming the present participle **shy'ing** and before *-ly* and *-ness* in **shy'ly, shy'ness.**

sib'i-lance, not *sibilence.*

sib'i-lant, not *sibilent.*

sib'yl, not *sybil.*

sib'yl-line, not *sybilline.*

sick (ill), distinguish from **six** (a number, one more than five).

side (a bounding line or surface; edge), distinguish from **sighed** (grieved for or lamented).

siege, not *seige.* See EI and IE, pp. 7 and 9.

sieve, not *seive.* See EI and IE, pp. 7 and 9.

sieze. Misspelling of SEIZE.

sigh'er (one given to sighing), distinguish from **sire** (a father).

sighs (deep breaths), distinguish from **size** (bulk; magnitude).

sight (a view), distinguish from **cite** (to quote), and from **site** (a place). See GH.

sign (a symbol; a mark), distinguish from **sine** (a line in trigonometry). See G.

sig'nal. The participles of this verb are spelt **sig'naled** or **sig'nalled, sig'nal-ing** or **sig'nal-ling.** Compare SIGNALIZE.

sig'nal-er, sig'nal-ler. Both forms are in use.

sig'nal-ize, not *signalise.* The final vowel is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sig'nalized, sig'nal-iz"ing.** Note that the *l* is not doubled. Compare SIGNAL.

sig'net (a seal), distinguish from **cyg'net** (a young swan).

sig-nif'i-cance. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

sig'ni-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **sig'ni-fied,** but *retains* it in the present participle **sig'ni-fy"ing.**

si'gnior, si'gnor. Distinguish from SEIGNIOR.

si'lage, not *sylage.*

si'lence *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **si'lenced, si'lenc-ing.**

sil"hou-ette' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sil"hou-et'ted, sil"hou-et'ting.**

si-li'ceous, si-li'cious (flinty), distinguish from **ci-li'cious** (made of hair).

sil'ly (simple; foolish), distinguish from **Scil'ly** (a group of islands to the southwest of England).

sil'ly *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **sil'li-er, sil'li-est.**

sil'ver (a precious metal), distinguish from **syl'va** (forest-trees).

Sim'e-on (a son of Jacob. See *Gen.* xxix, 33), distinguish from **sim'i-an** (an ape or monkey).

sim'mer, not *simer.*

Si'mon (the apostle Peter), distinguish from **Ci'mon** (an Athenian general).

si-moom', not *simoun* or *simoon.* The word is derived from the Arabic *samum,* from *samm,* to poison, and the moon has nothing to do with it.

sim'pli-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **sim'pli-fied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present, **sim'pli-fy"ing.**

sim'u-late, not *simalate.* The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sim'ul-at'ed, sim'u-lat"ing.**

sin *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **sinned, sin'-ning,** and in the noun **sin'ner.**

sine (a line in trigonometry), distinguish from **sign** (a symbol; a mark).

si'ne-cure, not *sinacure* or *sinicure.*

singe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **singed,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **singe'ing.**

sin'gle (alone), distinguish from **cin'gle** (a girth or belt).

sin'gle (*v.*) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sin'gled, sin'gling.**

sin'i-cal (relating to a sine), distinguish from **cyn'i-cal** (contemptuous; pessimistic).

sin'is-ter, not *sinistre* which is the French form.

sin'is-trorse (twining), distinguish from **sin'is-trous** (ill-omened).

sink (a draining basin or cesspool), distinguish from **cinque** (five).

sink, *v.* The parts of this verb are irregular being **sank** or **sunk** (preterit); **sunk** or **sunk'en** (past participle); **sink'ing** (present participle).

sin'ner (an evil doer), distinguish from **Cin'na** (a Roman consul).

Sioux (a tribe of North American Indians), distinguish from **Sault** (a town near Carpenteras, France). Compare SAULTE SAINTE MARIE.

sip *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **sipped, sip'-ping,** and the noun **sip'per.**

si'phon, not *sifon.*

sirbase. Misspelling of SURBASE.

sire (a father), distinguish from **sigh'er** (one who sighs).

si'ren, not *syren.*

Sir'i-us (a star), distinguish from **ce're-ous** (waxen), **se'ries** (succession), and from **se'ri-ous** (grave; solemn).

sir'loin, not *surloin.*

si-roc'co, not *sirrocco.*

sir'up, syr'up. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. The word is derived from the Old French *sirop.*

sis'al, not *sissal.*

sit. The parts of this verb are formed irregularly: The preterit and past participle **sat**, the present participle **sit'ting.** The *t* is doubled in forming the noun **sit'ter.**

site (a piece of ground, as for the erection of a building), distinguish from **cite** (to quote), and from **sight** (a view).

siz'a-ble, size'a-ble. Both forms are in use.

size (bulk; magnitude), and **size** (a gelatinous substance used in glazing paper) are spelt alike.

skate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **skat'ed, skat'ing.**

skee *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* in the past participle **skeed,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present **skee'ing.** See SKI.

skein, not *skane* as it is pronounced. See EI, p. 76.

skep'tic, skep'tic-al, skep'ti-cism. These forms are noted by American dictionaries, but are seldom seen in periodical literature. See SCEPTIC.

ski. The Danish form of SKEE, pronounced in Norwegian *she.* The participles are **skied, ski'ing.**

ski'a-graph, sci'a-graph. Both forms are noted by the dictionaries, but **ra'di-o-graph** is in wider use.

skid *doubles* the *d* before *-ed* and *-ing* in the participles **skid'ded, skid'ding,** and in the noun **skid'der.**

skil'ful, skill'ful. Both forms are used; not *skilfull.* See -FUL, p. 89.

skil'ful-ly, not *skillfully.*

skil'ful-ness, not *skillfulness* or *skillfullness.*

skil'less, skill'-less. Both forms are used, but the first is preferred.

skim *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **skimmed, skim'ming,** the noun **skim'mer,** and the adjective **skim'my** which *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **skim'mi-er, skim'mi-est.**

skin *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **skinned, skin'ning,** the noun **skin'ner,** and the adjective **skin'ny** which *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **skin'ni-er, skin'ni-est.**

skip *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **skipped, skip'ping,** the noun **skip'per,** and the adjective **skip'py.**

skit *doubles* the *t* in forming the adjective **skit'tish.**

skive *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **skived, skiv'ing,** NOT *skive'ing.*

skull (the cranium), distinguish from **scull** (a spoon oar).

sky *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **skied,** and before *es* in the plural **skies,** but *retains* it in the adjectives **sky'ey, sky'ish,** and the present participle **sky'ing.**

slake *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **slaked, slak'ing.**

slam *doubles* the *m* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **slammed, slam'ming.**

slap *doubles* the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in the participle **slapped, slap'ping,** and the noun **slap'per.**

slate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **slat'ed, slat'ing,** NOT *slateing.*

slaugh'ter, not *slauter.* Note that the digraph *gh* is silent. See GH, p. 92.

slave *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **slaved, slav'ing,** and the adjective **slav'ish.**

slay (to kill), distinguish from **sleigh** (a vehicle on runners), and from **sley** (a weaver's reed).

slay. The parts of this verb are irregular: **slew** (preterit); **slain** (past participle), but the present participle is regular, **slay'ing.**

sleave (matted thread or silk), distinguish from **sleeve** (the arm-covering of a garment).

sleave (to disentangle a mass of threads), distinguish from **sleeve** (to fit sleeves to). Both these verbs *drop* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming their participles **sleaved, sleav'ing, sleeved, sleev'ing.**

sled *doubles* the *d* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sled'ded, sled'ding.**

sleep. The past participle of this verb is **slept,** the present participle **sleep'ing.**

sleeve. Distinguish from SLEAVE.

sleigh. Distinguish from SLAY.

sley (a weaver's reed), distinguish from **sleigh** (a vehicle on runners).

slice *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sliced, slic'ing,** but *retains* it before *-able* in adjective **slice'a-ble.**

slid'a-ble, not *slideable.*

slide. The preterit of this verb is **slid** or **slid'ed,** the past participle **slid** or **slid'den,** the present participle **slid'ing.**

slight. Distinguish from SLEIGHT.

slim *doubles* the *m* in forming the comparative and superlative **slim'mer, slim'mest.**

slime *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **slimed, slim'ing,** and the adjective **slim'y** which *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **slim'i-er, slim'i-est.**

sling *changes* the *i* to *u* in forming the past participle **slung.** The present participle is **sling'ing.**

slink *changes* the *i* to *a* or *u* in forming the past participle **slank** or **slunk.** The present participle is **slink'ing.**

slip *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **slipped, slip'ping.** The form **slipt** (*pp.*) is used in poetry.

slit. The past participle is **slit** or **slit'ted,** the present participle **slit'ting.** The *t* is doubled before *-er* in the noun **slit'ter.**

sloe (a wild bitter plum), distinguish from **slow** (not swift).

sloid, sloyd. Both forms are used. The word is from the Swedish *slojd,* skill, and designates a system of manual training.

slop *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **slopped, slop'ping,** and the adjective **slop'py** which *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **slop'pi-er, slop'pi-est.**

slope *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sloped, slop'ing.**

slot *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **slot'ted, slot'ting.**

slough. This word is pronounced *sluf* or *slow* (*ow* as in *how*), but spelt as given above the *gh* being silent. See GH.

slow (not fast or quick), distinguish from **sloe** (a wild bitter plum).

slue *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **slued, slu'ing,** NOT *slueing.*

slug *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **slugged, slug'ging,** the nouns **slug'gard, slug'ger,** and the adjective **slug'gish.**

sluice *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sluiced, sluic'ing.**

slur *doubles* the *r* in forming the participles **slurred, slur'ring.**

sly. The comparative and the superlative of this adjective are written **sly'er** or **sli'er, sly'est** or **sli'est.**

sly *retains* the *y* in the adverb **sly'ly** and the noun **sly'ness.**

smear, not *smere.*

smell. The past participle is **smelled** or **smelt.**

smelt (a small food-fish) and **smelt** (to reduce ores in a furnace) are spelt and pronounced alike.

smile *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **smiled, smil'ing.**

smite. The preterit is **smote** or **smit,** the past participle **smit'ten** or **smit,** the present participle **smit'ing.**

smoke *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **smoked, smok'ing.**

smol'der, smoul'der. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

smooth, not *smoothe,* the original form, the word being derived from the Anglo-Saxon *smōthe.*

smooth'er (one who or that which smoothes), distinguish from **smoth'er** (that which smothers, as dust or vapor).

smudge *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **smudged, smudg'ing,** and *changes* the *e* to *y* in forming the adjective **smud'gy,** NOT *smudgey.*

smut *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **smut'ted, smut'ting,** and the adjective **smut'ty** which *changes* the *y* to *i* in forming the comparative and the superlative **smut'ti-er, smut'ti-est,** the adverb **smut'ti-ly,** and the noun **smut'ti-ness.**

snag *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **snagged, snag'ging,** and the adjective **snag'gy.**

snap *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **snapped, snap'ping,** the noun **snap'per,** and the adjectives **snap'pish, snap'py.**

snare *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **snared, snar'ing,** NOT *snareing.*

sneak, not *sneek* as it is pronounced. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

sneer, not *snear.*

sneeze *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sneezed, sneez'ing.**

snip *doubles* the *p* in the participles **snipped, snip'ping.**

snipe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sniped, snip'ing** and changes *e* to *y* in forming the adjective **snip'y.**

snipeing. Misspelling of **snip'ing.** See SNIPE.

sniv'el. The participles of this verb are spelt **sniv'eled** or **sniv'el-led, sniv'el-ing** or **sniv'el-ling.**

sniv'el-er, sniv'el-ler. Both forms are in use.

snob *doubles* the *b* in forming the noun **snob'ber-y** and the adjective **snob'bish.**

snore *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **snored, snor'ing,** NOT *snoreing.*

snub *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **snubbed, snub'bing,** and the noun **snub'ber.**

snug *doubles* the *g* in forming the comparative and the superlative **snug'ger, snug'gest.**

so (in such manner), distinguish from **sew** (to mend with needle and thread), and from **sow** (to scatter seed).

soak (the act of immersing in a liquid, as clothes in water), distinguish from **soke** (a franchise, privilege, or jurisdiction).

soap, not *sope* as it is pronounced. Note that the *a* is silent. See OA, p. 141.

soar (a range of upward flight), distinguish from **sore** (an inflamed, bruised, or diseased place). See OA, p. 141.

soared (floated in air, as a bird), distinguish from **sword** (a weapon).

sob *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **sobbed, sob'bing.**

so"bri-quet'. A word derived from the French and meaning a nickname, which is pronounced as if spelt *sobrikay.* Compare BOUQUET.

soc'cer, not *socker.* A colloquialism of recent introduction for football played under rules of the Football Association.

so-ci'e-ty *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **so-ci'e-ties.**

sod *doubles* the *d* in forming the participles **sod'ded, sod'ding.**

sod'den *doubles* the *n* in forming the noun **sod'den-ness.**

sog'gy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **sog'gi-er, sog'gi-est.**

soi"rée'. A word derived from the French the spelling of which can not be deduced from the pronunciation *swa"rey'.*

so'journ, not *sojurn* as it is pronounced. Note that the second *o* is silent. See O.

soke. Distinguish from SOAK.

sold (disposed of by sale), distinguish from **soled** (furnished with a sole, as a shoe).

sold'er, not *sodder* as it is usually pronounced.

sol'dier, not *soljer* as it is pronounced. See D, p. 65.

sole (I. *a.* Only. II. *n.* **1.** The bottom of the foot. **2.** A fish), distinguish from **soul** (the spirit).

sole (*v.*) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **soled, sol'ing,** NOT *soleing.*

soled. Distinguish from SOLD.

sol'emn, not *solem* as it is pronounced, the *n* being silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and N.

sol'em-nise, sol'em-nize. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in the participles **sol'em-nised** or **-nized, sol'em-nis″ing** or **-niz″ing.** The nouns in *-ation* and *-er* are also spelt with either *s* or *z* according to the usage of the country.

so-lid'i-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **so-lid'i-fied.** The present participle is **so-lid'i-fy″ing.**

so-lil'o-quize, so-lil'o-quise. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **so-lil'o-quized** or **-quised, so-lil'o-quiz″ing** or **-quis″ing.**

so-lil'o-quy *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **so-lil'o-quies.**

so'lo. The plural is formed by adding *s.* See PLURALS OF NOUNS, p. 13.

sol'stice, not *solstis* as it is pronounced.

solv'a-ble, not *solveable.*

solve *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **solved, solv'ing,** NOT *solveing.*

som'ber, som'bre. Both forms are used; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. So also **som'ber-ly** and **som'bre-ly.**

som-bre'ro, not *sombraro.*

some (a part of anything), distinguish from **Somme** (a river in France), and from **sum** (the amount or total).

som-nam'bu-lance, not *somnambulence.*

som-nam'bu-lant, not *somnambulent.*

son (a male child), distinguish from **sun** (a heavenly body, the source of light and heat).

soot (a black carbon from smoke), distinguish from **suit** (an outfit, as of clothes; also, a case at law).

sooth (true; trustworthy), distinguish from **soothe** (to calm).

soothe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **soothed, sooth'ing.**

sooth'say-er, not *soothesayer.*

sop *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **sopped, sop'ping.**

soph'ism, not *sofism.* So also **soph'ist, soph'is-ter, soph'is-tic, so-phis'ti-cate, soph'is-try,** etc. See PH.

soph'o-more, not *sophamore.* See PH.

so-pra'no. The plural is formed by adding *s,* **so-pra'nos;** or by changing the final *o* to *i,* **so-pra'ni.**

sore. Distinguish from SOAR.

sor'ghum, not *sorgum* as it is pronounced. Note that the *h* is silent.

sor'rel not *sorel.*

sor'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **sor'ri-er, sor'ri-est.**

sort (a kind), distinguish from **sought** (looked for).

sou"brette', not *soubret.*

Sou-dan', Su-dan'. Both forms are in use, but the second is more frequent.

sough (a murmuring sound, as of wind through trees), distinguish from **sow** (a female swine).

soul (the spirit), distinguish from **sole** (the bottom of the foot).

source (origin), distinguish from **sauce** (a gravy or relish).

souse *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **soused, sous'ing,** NOT *souseing.*

South-amp'ton, not *Southhampton.*

south'er-ly, not *sutherly* as it is pronounced.

south'ern, not *suthern* as it is pronounced.

sov'er-eign, not *sovregn* as it is pronounced.

sow (to scatter seed), distinguish from **sew** (make, mend, or fasten with thread), and from **so** (in such manner).

space *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **spaced, spac'ing,** but *retains* it before ***-able*** **in space'a-ble.**

spa'cious (wide; roomy), distinguish from **spe'cious** (plausible).

spa-ghet'ti. An Italian word in which the *h* is silent in English.

Spain *drops* the *i* before *-iard* and *-ish* in forming the noun **Span'iard,** and the adjective **Span'ish.**

span *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **spanned, span'ning,** and the noun **span'ner.**

span'iel, not *spanyel* as it is pronounced.

spar *doubles* the *r* in forming the participles **sparred, spar'ring,** and the noun **spar'rer.**

spare *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **spared, spar'ing,** but *retains* it in **spare'ly, spare'ness.**

spat *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **spat'ted, spat'ting**

spat'ter, not *spater.*

speak. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, pp. 1-2. The parts of this verb are **spoke** (preterit) or **spake** (archaic form), **spok'en** (past participle) or **spoke** (archaic form), **speak'ing** (present participle). See EA, p. 75.

spe'cial, not *speshal* as it is pronounced.

spe"ci-al'i-ty (specific or individual character; peculiarity), distinguish from **spe'cial-ty** (an occupation or study limited to one particular line). Both words change *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plurals **spe"ci-al'i-ties, spe'cial-ties.**

spe'cial-ize, spe'cial-ise. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

spe'cie (coined money; coin), distinguish from **spe'cies** (a group), as of animals or plants, belonging to a particular class or genus. Compare SPECIOUS.

spec'i-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **spec'i-fied,** but *retains* it in the present participle **spec'i-fy"ing.**

spe'cious (plausible), distinguish from **spa'cious** (wide; roomy).

spec-ta'tor, not *spectater.* See SUFFIXES, p. 11.

spec'ter, spec'tre. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

spec'u-la"tor, not *speculater.*

speech, not *speach.* Compare SPEAK.

speed has an alternative past participle **sped** which is occasionally used, but the form **speed'ed** is more common.

spell. The past participle and past tense of this verb is written **spelled** or **spelt**, the present participle **spell'ing.**

spend *changes* the *d* to *t* in forming the past participle **spent,** NOT *spended.* The present participle is regular, **spend'ing.**

sphere, spher'ic, sphe'roid, sphinc'ter, sphinx (plural, **sphinx'es** or **sphin'ges**). The digraph *ph* in these words is pronounced as *f*. See F and PH.

sphinx, not *sphynx.*

spice *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **spiced, spic'ing.**

spic'y *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er, -est, -ly* and *-ness* in **spic'i-er, spic'i-est, spic'i-ly, spic'i-ness.**

spie'gel-ei″sen. The German name of a white cast **iron.**

spike *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **spiked, spik'ing.**

spilt. A variant form of **spilled,** imperfect tense and past participle of SPILL.

spin. The parts of the verb are irregular, the preterit being **spun** or **span;** the past participle **spun;** the present participle **spin'ning.**

spin *doubles* the *n* before *-er* in forming the noun **spin'ner.**

spin'ach. A word derived from the Old French *spinache* or *espinage,* but pronounced in English as if spelt *spinage,* a variant form rarely used.

spir'i-tual (sacred or religious), distinguish from **spir″i-tu-elle'** (characterized by grace, refinement, and delicacy). The second is a French word.

spir'i-tu-al-ize, not *spiritualise.* The *e* is dropped before *-ation, -ed,* and *-ing* in **spir″i-tu-al-i-za'tion, spir'i-tu-al-ized, spir'i-tu-al-iz″ing.**

spit[1]. To expectorate. The parts of the verb are irregular, the preterit and past participle being **spit** or **spat;** the present participle **spit'ting.** *Spitted,* a former past participle, is not now in good use.

spit[2]. To spear or stick through with a spit or skewer. This verb *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **spit'ted, spit'ting.**

splice *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **spliced, splic'ing,** but *retains* it before *-able* in **splice'a-ble.**

split *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **split'ted, split'ting,** but has an alternative past participle **split.**

spoil forms the past participle by adding *-ed* or *-t*, **spoiled** or **spoilt.** The present participle is **spoil'ing.**

spoke, not *spoak.*

sponge *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sponged, spong'ing,** NOT *spongeing.*

sponge'a-ble, not *spongable.*

spon'sor, not *sponser.*

spon-ta'ne-ous *retains* the *e*, but substitutes *-ity* for *-ous* in forming the noun **spon"ta-ne'i-ty.** Compare MASCULINE.

spot *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **spot'ted, spot'ting,** the adjectives **spot'ta-ble, spot'ty,** and the noun **spot'ter.**

spread, not *spred.* The past participle and past tense are **spread,** not *spreaded.* The present participle is **spread'ing.**

sprig *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **sprigged, sprig'ging.**

spright'ly, not *spritely* as it is pronounced, the GH being silent. See GH. The *y* changes to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **spright'li-er, spright'li-est,** and also before *-ness* in the noun **spright'li-ness.**

spring *changes* the *i* to *a* or *u* in forming the preterit **sprang** or **sprung.** The past participle is **sprung,** present participle **spring'ing.**

sprin'kle, not *sprinkel.* The *e* is dropped in forming the participles **sprin'kled** (NOT *sprinkeled*), **sprin'kling** (NOT *sprinkeling*).

spry *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **spri'er, spri'est.**

spur *doubles* the *r* in forming the participles **spurred, spur'ring.**

spy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **spied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **spy'ing.**

spy (*n.*) *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural **spies.**

squal'id, not *squallid.* See Q. The word is derived from the Latin *squales*, be foul.

squall, not *squal.* See Q. The word is derived from the Swedish *sqval,* rush of water.

squal'or, not *squaler* or *squallor.* See SQUALID.

square *drops* the *e* before *-able, -ed, -er,* and *-ing* in **squar'a-ble, squared, squar'er, squar'ing.**

squat *doubles* the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **squat'ted, squat'ting,** before *-er* in the noun **squat'ter,** and before *-y* in the adjective **squat'ty,** which *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **squat'ti-er, squat'ti-est.**

squeak, not *squeek* or *skweek.* See EA and Q.

squeal, not *squeel* or *skweel.* See EA and Q.

squib *doubles* the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **squibbed, squib'bing.**

squir'rel, not *squrrul.*

stab *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **stabbed' stab'bing** and before *-er* in the noun **stab'ber.**

stab'i-lize, not *stabilise.*

sta'di-um forms the plural by adding *s* to the root-word **sta'di-ums,** or by dropping *um* and adding *a,* **sta'di-a.**

staff[1] (a body of military officers) forms the plural by adding *s,* **staffs.**

staff[2] (a shaft or pole of wood) *changes* the *ff* to *ves* to form the plural **staves.**

stair (a step, or one of a series of steps), distinguish from **stare** (a steady or fixed gaze).

stake (a sharp stick; a wager), distinguish from **steak** (a slice of beef).

stalk (a stem), distinguish from **stork** (a long-legged bird of passage). Note that the *l* in the first word is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and L.

stanch, staunch. Both forms are in use. The first is preferred in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

stand. The past participle of this verb is formed by changing *an* to *oo,* **stood.** Not *standed.* The present participle is **stand'ing.**

stand'ard-ize, stand'ard-ise. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

stare. Distinguish from STAIR.

starve *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **starved, starv'ing,** but *retains* it before *-ling* in **starve'ling.**

sta'tion-a-ry (remaining in one place), distinguish from **sta'tion-er-y** (writing materials).

stat'ue (a figure carved in marble), distinguish from **stat'ure** (height of a person), and from **stat'ute** (a law).

staves. Plural of STAFF[2].

stay. The past participle is **stayed or staid**, and the present participle **stay'ing.**

steak. Distinguish from STAKE.

steal (to rob, to pilfer), distinguish from **steel** (to make or cover with refined iron).

steer (**I.** *n.* A young male ox. **II.** *v.* To guide a ship on its course), distinguish from **stere** (a cubic unit of metric measure).

stel'la (a surgical bandage), distinguish from **stel'lar** (starry).

stem *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **stemmed, stem'ming.**

sten'cil. The participles of this verb are written **sten'ciled** or **sten'cilled, sten'cil-ing** or **sten'cil'ling.**

step (a motion forward made with the foot), distinguish from **steppe** (a vast plain).

stere. Distinguish from STEER.

ster'e-o-type *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ster'e-o-typed, ster'e-o-typ″ing.**

ster'ile *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ster'il-ize, ster'il-iz″ing.**

ster'ling (**I.** *n.* Money of standard value. **II.** *a.* Genuine), distinguish from **Stir'ling** (a city in Scotland).

ster'tor-ous, not *sterterous.*

stet (to let stand: used in proof-reading), *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **stet'ted, stet'ting.**

stich (a line or verse of the Bible), distinguish from **stick** (a piece of wood).

stick *changes* the *i* to *u* in forming the past participle **stuck,** but *retains* it in the present participle **stick'ing.**

sticks (bits of wood), distinguish from **Styx** (a river of Hades).

stig'ma forms the plural by adding *s* or *-ta.* In ecclesiastical use, always **stig'ma-ta.**

stig'ma-tize *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **stig'ma-tized, stig'ma-tiz″ing.**

stile (a step on either side of a fence), distinguish from **style** (fashion; mode).

sting *changes* the *i* to *u* in forming the past participle **stung**, but *retains* it in the present participle **sting'ing.**

stir *doubles* the *r* in forming the participles **stirred, stir'ring.**

Stir'ling (a city in Scotland). Distinguish from STERLING.

stir'rup, not *stirup.*

stitch, not STICH, which see.

stodg'y, not *stodgey.*

sto'ma (a pore) forms the plural by adding *-ta,* **sto'ma-ta,** NOT *stomas.*

stom'ach. Note that the *o* is pronounced like *u* in "but" and the *ch* like *k.* See CH. The participles of the verb are **stom'ached, stom'ach-ing.**

stom'ach-ache", not *stumacake* .

stone *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **stoned, ston'ing.**

stop *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **stopped, stop'ping.**

stope *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **stoped, stop'ing,** NOT *stopeing.*

store *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **stored, stor'ing.**

stork (a bird of passage), distinguish from **stalk** (the stem of a plant).

sto'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* and *-ed* is added in forming the adjective **sto'ried** (1. Relating to a narrative. 2. Having different floors, as a building), and the past participle **sto'ried,** but *retains* it in the present participle **sto'ry-ing.**

sto'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural **sto'ries.**

strad'dle, strag'gle. Both verbs *drop* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **strad'dled, strad'dling; strag'gled, strag'gling.**

straight (direct), distinguish from **strait** (a narrow passage of water connecting larger bodies).

straight'en, strait'en. Both forms are used, but the first is usually to designate "to make straight;" the second, "to restrict, restrain, hamper, distress."

strap *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **strapped, strap'ping.**

stra'ta. The plural of STRATUM. Not *strattas*, as sometimes heard. Compare DATA.

strat'e-gy *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural **strat'e-gies.**

stra'tum, not *strattum* as sometimes heard. See STRATA.

streak, stream. The *a* is silent in both of these words. See A and EA.

stride. The preterit and the past participle of this verb are formed irregularly: preterit, **strode,** past participle, **strid'den,** formerly **strid.** The present participle is **strid'ing.**

strike. The preterit and the past participle of this verb are formed irregularly: preterit, **struck,** past participle, **struck** or **strick'en,** formerly **strook.** The present participle is **strik'ing.**

string *changes* the *i* to *u* in forming the past participle **strung.** The present participle is **string'ing.**

strip *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **stripped, strip'ping;** also in the noun **strip'per.**

stripe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **striped, strip'ing.**

strive. The preterit and the past participle of this verb are irregular: preterit, **strove,** past participle, **striv'en** or **strived.** The present participle is **striv'ing.**

strop *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **stropped, strop'ping,** and in the noun **strop'per.**

strum *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **strummed, strum'ming,** and in the noun **strum'mer.**

strut *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **strut'ted, strut'ting.**

strych'nin, strych'nine. Both forms are in use. Note that *ch* is pronounced as *k*. See CH.

stub, stud. Both of these verbs *double* the final consonant before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **stubbed, stub'bing; stud'ded, stud'ding.**

stud'y *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **stud'ied,** and before *es* in forming the plural **stud'ies;** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **stud'y-ing.**

stul'ti-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **stul'ti-fied,** and before *-er* in the noun **stul'ti-fi-er;** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **stul'ti-fy"ing.**

stun *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **stunned, stun'ning,** and the noun **stun'ner.**

stu'pe-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **stu'pe-fied,** and before *-er* in the noun **stu'pe-fi″er.**

stur'dy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **stur'di-er,** and the superlative **stur'di-est.**

stur'geon, not *sturjen* as it is pronounced.

style (1. Fashion; mode. 2. Manner of writing. 3. A pin or pointer on a dial), distinguish from **stile** (a step on either side of a fence).

style *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **styled, styl'ing,** and before *-ist* in the noun **styl'ist.**

sty'lus *changes* the *us* to *i* in forming the plural **sty'li,** or adds *-es* in **sty'lus-es.**

Styx (a river of the lower regions), distinguish from **sticks** (bits of wood).

suave, not *swave* as it is pronounced.

sub-. Many English words are formed with this prefix and the second element of compounds with which it is used; as, *sub*acidulous, slightly acid; *sub*ordinate, inferior in order. Only such words of which the second element does not indicate a specific meaning, as *sub*mit, are recorded in their alphabetical places below.

sub-duce′ *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub-duced′, sub-duc'ing.**

sub-due′ *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub-dued′, sub-du'ing,** and before *-er* in the noun **sub-du'er.**

sub'ju-gate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub'ju-gat″ed, sub'ju-gat″ing.**

sub'ju-ga″tor, not *subjugater.* See -OR, p. 11.

sub'li-mate, sub-lime′. Both of these verbs *drop* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub'li-mat″ed, sub'li-mat″ing; sub-limed′, sub-lim'-ing.**

sub-mis'sion, not *submition.*

sub-mit′ *doubles* the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub-mit'ted, sub'mit″ting,** and before *-er* in the noun **sub-mit'ter.**

sub-pe'na, sub-pœ'na. Both forms are used, but as the tendency is to discard diphthongs the first is preferred.

sub'ro-gate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub'ro-gat"ed, sub'ro-gat"ing.**

sub-scribe' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub-scribed', sub-scrib'ing.**

sub-scrip'tion, not *subscribtion.*

sub'si-dize, not *subsadize* or *subsidise.* The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub'si-dized, sub'si-diz"ing.**

sub-sis'tence, not *subsistance.*

sub'stance, not *substence.*

sub'sti-tute *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub'sti-tut"ed, sub'sti-tut"ing.**

sub'tile (delicately formed; refined), distinguish from **sub'tle** (crafty; cunning).

subt'ler (more cunning), distinguish from **sut'ler** (a camp-follower who sells goods or provisions to soldiers).

sub'urb, not *suberb.*

suc-ceed', not *succede.*

suc'cor (help; aid), distinguish from **suck'er** (a type of fish).

suc-cumb'. Note that the *b* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and B.

Su-dan', Sou-dan'. Both forms are used, but the first is preferred.

sue *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sued, su'ing,** NOT *sueing.* See SUER.

suède, not *swade* as it is pronounced.

su'er (one who sues), distinguish from **sew'er** (a drain).

suf-fice', not *suffise.* The *e* is dropped in forming the participles **suf-ficed', suf-fic'ing.**

suf'frage, not *sufferage.*

suf"fra-gette', not *sufferagette* or *suffraget.*

suf-fuse', not *suffuze.* The *e* is dropped in forming the participles **suf-fused', suf-fus'ing.**

sug'ar, not *shuger* as it is pronounced. See U.

sug-gest', not *sudjest* as it is pronounced.

sug-gest'er, sug-gest'or. Both forms are used, but the first predominates.

suit (an outfit), distinguish from **soot** (a carbonaceous substance from smoke).

suite (a succession or series of things), distinguish from **sweet** (agreeable to the senses).

sul'fur. This word was formerly spelt **sul'phur,** a form now met with only occasionally. The derivatives **sul'fate, sul'fid, sul-fu'ric,** etc., were also formerly spelt with *ph* instead of *f*.

sum (whole; the total), distinguish from **some** (a part of), and from **Somme** (a river in France).

sum *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **summed, sum'ming,** and before *-able* in **sum'ma-ble.**

su'mac, not *shumac* as sometimes pronounced.

sum'ma-rize, not *summerize.* The form **sum'ma-rise** is also used occasionally. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sum'ma-rized,** or **-rised, sum'ma-riz'ing** or **-ris'ing.**

sump'tu-a-ry, not *sumptuery.*

sun (a heavenly body, the source of light and heat), distinguish from **son** (a male child).

sun *doubles* the *n* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sunned, sun'ning.**

sup *doubles* the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **supped, sup'ping,** and before *-er* in the noun **sup'per.**

su"per-cal'en-dered, not *supercalendared.*

su"per-er"o-ga'tion, not *superogation* as often mispronounced.

su"per-in-ten'dence, not *superintendance.*

su"per-in-ten'dent, not *superintendant.*

su"per-nu'mer-a-ry, not *supernumerery.*

su"per-sede', not *supercede.*

su"per-se'de-as, not *supercedeas.*

su"per-vene' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **su"per-vened', su"per-ven'ing.**

su"per-vise', not *supervize.* The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **su"per-vised', su"per-vis'ing.**

su"per-vi'sor, not *superviser.*

su"per-vi'so-ry, not *supervisery.*

sup'ple-ment, not *supplament* or *suppliment.*

sup-ply' *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **sup-plied',** and before *-er* in the noun **sup-pli'er,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in **sup-ply'ing.**

sup-pos'a-ble, not *supposeable.*

sup-pose' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sup-posed', sup-pos'ing.**

sup-pos'i-to-ry, not *suppositary* or *suppositery.*

sup'pu-rate (to form or generate pus), distinguish from **sep'a-rate** (to divide; disconnect).

sur'base, not *sirbase.*

sur'cin-gle, not *sursingle.* The word is from the Latin *super,* over, and *cingulum,* belt, not from *singulus,* single.

sure (certain), distinguish from **sho'er** (one who shoes).

sure'ty *changes* the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **sure'ties,** but *retains* it before *-ship* in the noun **sure'ty-ship.**

surf (a bursting of waves), distinguish from **serf** (a peasant).

sur'face *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sur'faced, sur'fac-ing,** and before *-er* in the noun **sur'fac-er.**

sur'feit, not *surfit* as it is pronounced. See EI, p. 7.

surge (a rolling motion, as of a billowy wave), distinguish from **serge** (a woolen cloth).

surge *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **surged, surg'ing.**

sur'geon, not *surjen* as it is pronounced. See G.

sur'li-ly, not *surlyly.*

surloin. Misspelling of SIRLOIN.

sur'ly *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **sur'li-er,** and the superlative **sur'li-est,** and before *-ness* in the noun **sur'li-ness.**

sur-mise', not *surmize* as it is pronounced. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sur-mised', sur-mis'ing.**

sur'plice (a clerical dress), distinguish from **sur'plus** (excess).

sur-prise', sur-prize'. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States. The *e* of both is dropped before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as *-al, -ed, -ing:* **sur-pris'al** or **sur-priz'al, sur-prised'** or **sur-prized', sur-pris'ing** or **sur-priz'ing.**

sur"rep-ti'tious, not *surrepticious.*

sur'ro-gate, not *surragate.*

sur-veil'lance, not *surveillence.*

sur-vive' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sur-vived'**, **sur-viv'ing.**

sus-cep'ti-ble, not *susceptable.*

Sus"que-han'na. A river in New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Not *Susquihannah.*

sus'te-nance, not *sustainance* or *sustenence.*

sut'ler. Distinguish from SUBTLER.

swain, not *swane.*

swath (a space cut by a machine in a single course; sometimes also spelt **swathe**), distinguish from **swathe** (to bind or wrap in bandages) which drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **swathed, swath'ing.**

swear. The preterit and the past participle of this verb are irregular: preterit, **swore** or formerly **sware;** past participle, **sworn.** The present participle is **swear'ing.**

sweat. The past participle is **sweat** or **sweat'ed;** present participle **sweat'ing.** Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

sweep *drops* one *e* and adds *t* in forming the past participle **swept,** but *retains* both *e's* and adds *-ing* in the present participle **sweep'ing.**

sweet. Distinguish from SUITE.

swell. The past participle is **swelled** or **swol'len,** present participle **swell'ing.**

swim *changes* the *i* to *a* or *u* in forming the preterit **swam** or **swum;** to *u* in the past participle **swum,** and *doubles* the *m* before *-ing* in forming the present participle **swim'ming.**

swing *changes* the *i* to *u* in forming the preterit and the past participle **swung,** formerly **swang,** but *retains* it in the present participle **swing'ing.**

sword (a weapon), distinguish from **sawed** (having cut with a saw), and from **soared** (did soar). The *w* in the first is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.

syc'a-more, not *sycomore,* an archaic spelling.

syc'o-phant, not *sickofant* as it is pronounced.

syl'la-ba-ry, not *syllabery.*

syl'la-ble *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **syl'la-bled, syl'la-bling.**

syl'lo-gise, syl'lo-gize. Both forms *drop* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **syl'lo-gised, syl'lo-gized, syl'lo-gis"ing, syl'lo-giz"ing.**

syl'lo-gism, not *syllojism.* See G.

sylph, not *sylf.*

syl'va (forest-trees), distinguish from **sil'ver** (a precious metal).

sym'bol (a sign), distinguish from **cym'bal** (a musical instrument).

sym'me-try (harmony of arrangement), distinguish from **cem'e-ter-y** (a burial-ground).

sym'pa-thise, sym'pa-thize. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sym'pa-thised, sym'pa-thized, sym'-pa-this″ing, sym'pa-thiz″ing.**

sym-po'si-um *changes* the *um* to *a* in forming the plural **sym-po'si-a.** There is a tendency to form the plural by merely adding *s.*

syn'chro-nize *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **syn'chro-nized, syn'chro-niz″ing.**

syn'co-pe, not *sinkopy.*

syn'di-cal-ism, syn'di-cal-ist, syn″di-cal-i-za'tion, syn'di-cal-ize. Note that the first syllable of all these words is spelt with a *y* and not with an *i.* All are words of comparatively recent introduction relating to the economic movement that aimed to federate all the workers of the world. The *e* of the last is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **syn'di-cal-ized, syn'di-cal-iz″ing.** The form **syn'di-cal-ise** and its derivatives **-ised, -is″ing** are sometimes used.

syn'di-cate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **syn'di-cat″ed, syn'di-cat″ing.**

sy-nec'do-che. Note that the digraph *ch* in this word is pronounced as *k.* See CH.

syn'o-nym, not *synonyme,* an obsolete spelling.

sy-nop'sis *changes* the *i* to *e* in forming the plural **sy-nop'ses.**

syr'up, syr'up-y. Variant forms of SIRUP, SIRUPY.

syz'y-gy, pronounced as if spelt *siz'i-ji, changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **syn'y-gies.** The word is derived from the Greek *syn,* together, and *zeugnymi,* join, and means the uniting of parts.

T

t. Properly *t* has a hard sound as that in *take, tell, till, toll, tulle;* in combination with other letters its sounds vary. Thus it has the sound of sh (1) before *ia* as in *satiate;* (2) before *ie,* as in *patience;* (3) before *io,* as in *nation.* It is pronounced like *ch* whenever followed by *u* as in *feature, nature, rapture,* etc.

The letter *t* is indicated,in common spelling (1) by *t,* as in *tale, hot;* (2) by *tt,* as in *tatters, butt;* (3) by *th* as in *Thomas, thyme;* (4) by *d* and *-ed* final in preterits and participles after a surd, as in *faced, asked.* See TH. When followed by *l, m, n,* this letter is silent after *f* and *s* as in *often, castle, Christmas.*

tab'ard, not *taberd.*

Ta-bas'co, not *Tobasco.*

tab'la-ture, not *tablateur.*

ta'ble *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ta'bled, ta'bling.**

tab'leau forms the plural by adding *s* or *x,* **tab'leaus** or **tab'leaux.**

tab'ou-ret, not *tabourette.*

ta-bu', ta-boo'. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred being etymologically sound. The word is from the Polynesian *tapu,* forbidden.

tacks (small nails), distinguish from **tax** (a duty; excise).

tael (a Chinese monetary unit), distinguish from **tail** (the appendange at the hindmost part of an animal), from **tale** (a story).

taf'fe-ta, not *taffata.*

tag *doubles* the *g* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tagged, tag'ging.**

tail. Distinguish from TALE. See under TAEL.

talc (a soapstone) forms its derivative adjectives by adding *-ose* or *-ous,* **talc'ose, talc'ous.** The variants **talc'y** and **talc'ky** are occasionally used.

tale. Distinguish from TAEL and TAIL.

tal'ents (natural powers), distinguish from **tal'ons** (claws).

tales'man (one summoned to make up a jury), distinguish from **tal'is-man** (a charm).

talk. Note that the *l* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

tal'low (a mixture of beef and mutton fats), distinguish from **tal'ly** (a reckoning on account), which *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural **tal'lies.**

tal'ly *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tal'lied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **tal'ly-ing.**

tal'ons. Distinguish from TALENTS.

tam'a-ble, not *tameable.*

tame *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tamed, tam'ing.**

tan *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **tanned, tan'ning.**

Tan"ger-ine', not *Tangerene.*

tan'gi-ble, not *tangeable.*

tan'gle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tan'gled, tan'gling.**

tan'go, ten'go. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

tan'ta-lise, tan'ta-lize. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tan'ta-lised** or **-lized; tan'ta-lis"ing** or **-liz"ing.**

tap *doubles* the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tapped, tap'ping,** and before *-er* in the noun **tap'per.**

ta'per (a long thin candle-like wax wick), distinguish from **ta'pir** (a hog-like mammal with a long nose).

tap'es-try *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tap'es-tried,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **tap'es-try-ing.**

tar'dy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **tar'di-er,** and the superlative **tar'di-est.**

tare (**1.** The weight of a bale, package, cask, etc. **2.** A word of the Bible), distinguish from **tear** (to pull apart; rend).

tar-pau'lin, not *tarpalling* its original form.

tar'ri-er (a delayer), distinguish from **ter'ri-er** (a dog).

tar'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tar'ried** and before *-er* (see above), but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **tar'ry-ing.**

tar'tar, not *tarter.* Compare TATAR.

tas'sel. The participles of this verb are written **tas'seled** or **tas'selled; tas'sel-ing** or **tas'sel-ling.**

taste *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tast'ed, tast'ing.**

tat *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **tat'ted, tat'ting.**

Ta'tar, Tar'tar. Both spellings have been in use, but the modern tendency is to restrict the latter to designate a person of a savage temper.

tat"ter-de-ma'lion, not *tattademalien.* The word designates "a ragged fellow" and is from *tatter,* rags and Old French *de,* from, *maillon,* long clothes.

tat'tle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tat'tled, tat'tling,** and before *-er* in **tat'tler.**

tat-too', not *tatoo.* The root-word *retains* the *oo* before suffixes beginning with a vowel, as *-age, -ed, -er, -ing, -ist,* **tat-too'age, tat-tooed', tat-too'er,** etc.

taught (instructed), distinguish from **taut** (stretched tight), and from **tort** (a wrong).

taupe (a mole; also, the color of moleskin), distinguish from **tope** (a shrine).

tau-tol'o-gy, not *tortology.* The word is derived from the Greek *tauto,* the same, and *lego,* speak.

taw (to convert into leather), distinguish from **tore** (did tear).

tax (a duty, excise), distinguish from **tacks** (small nails).

tax'i-cab, not *taxacab.*

tax-im'e-ter, not *taxameter.*

tea (a plant or an infusion made from its leaves), distinguish from **tee** (a little cone of earth or sand on which a ball is placed in golf).

teach. The past participle of this verb is irregular: **taught.**

teach, teak, teal, team. In these words the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, pp. 1-2, and EA, p. 75.

team (a set of players, or two or more horses in harness), distinguish from **teem** (to abound).

tear (to pull apart; rend), distinguish from **tare** (weight of a bale, box, cask, etc.).

tear (water from the eye), distinguish from **tier** (a row as in a theater; rank).

teas (plural of TEA), distinguish from **tease** (annoy).

teat. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, pp. 1-2, and EA, p. 75.

tech-nique' (manner of artistic performance), distinguish from **tech'nics** (the doctrine of arts).

ted *doubles* the *d* in forming the participles **ted'ded, ted'ding,** and in the noun **ted'der.**

tee *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **teed,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **tee'ing.** Distinguish from TEA.

teeth. Plural of TOOTH.

tel-au'to-graph, not *telortograph.* See PH.

te-lep'a-thy, not *talepathy.*

tel'e-scope *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tel'e-scoped, tel'e-scop"ing.**

tell *changes* to **told** in the past participle, but *adds* an *-ing* in the present **tell'ing.**

tem'per-a-ment, not *temprament.*

tem'per-ance, not *temprance.*

tem'per-ate, not *temparate.* Compare SEPARATE.

tem'po-ra-ry, not *temperary.*

tem'po-rize, not *temparize.* The form **tem'po-rise** is used in Great Britain. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tem'po-rized** or **-rised; tem'po-riz"ing** or **-ris"ing.**

ten'ant, not *tennant.*

ten'e-ment, not *tenament.*

Ten"nes-see', not *Tennasee.*

ten'on, not *tennon.*

tense (stretched tight), distinguish from **tents** (canvas shelters).

ten'sion, not *tention.*

ter-cen'te-na-ry, not *tercentennary.*

ter"cen-ten'ni-al, not *tercentenial.*

term'er (a prisoner serving a sentence), distinguish from **term'or** (a person who holds land, etc., for a definite period).

ter-mi-nus *changes* the *-us* to *i* in forming the plural **ter'mi-ni,** but has an alternative formed by adding *-es,* **ter'mi-nus-es.**

terodactyl, tomain. Misspellings of PTERODACTYL, PTOMAIN.

ter-res'tri-al, not *terrestreal.*

ter'ri-ble, not *terrable.*

ter'ri-er (a dog), distinguish from **tar'ri-er** (a delayer).

ter'ri-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **ter'ri-fied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in **ter'ri-fy"ing.**

ter'ti-a-ry, not *tertiery.*

tes'sel-lat"ed, not *tesalated* or *teselated.*

tes'ta-ment, not *testiment.*

tes-ta'tor, not *testater*.

tes'ti-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tes'ti-fied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in **tes'ti-fy-ing**.

tes'ti-mo-ny, not *testamony*.

tête"-à-tête'. Face to face; literally, head to head, a French phrase of which the spelling is not to be deduced from the pronunciation.

Tha'is is sometimes pronounced as if spelt *thay'is*, but more frequently as if spelt *ta'ees*. The first is the English, the second the French pronunciation.

Thames. The name of a river, the *h* of which is silent in England, but sounded in the United States.

the (definite article indicating a particular person or thing), distinguish from **thee** (objective case of THOU).

the'a-ter, the'a-tre. Both forms are in use, but the latter prevails in the dramatic profession.

their (the possessive form of THEY), distinguish from **there** (at that place), and from **they're** (contraction of "they are").

the-oc'ra-cy (government by the sovereignty of God), distinguish from **the-oc'ra-sy** (mixture of worship of different gods).

ther"a-peu'tics, not *theraputics*.

there-for' (for that or this), distinguish from **there'fore** (for that or this reason).

the-sau'rus, not *thesorus*.

the'sis *changes* the *i* to *e* in forming the plural **the'ses**.

thief *changes* the *f* to *v* before *-ery* and *-es* in **thiev'e-ry, thieves** (*pl.*).

thigh (the leg between the hip and the knee), distinguish from **thy** (the possessive case of the personal pronoun THEE).

thin *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **thinned, thin'ning**, and before *-er* in the comparative **thin'ner**, and *-est* in the superlative **thin'nest**.

think *changes* to **thought** in forming the past participle, but does not *change* before *-ing* in the present participle **think'ing**.

though. Note that the trigraph *ugh* is silent. See GH. There is a tendency to spell the word **tho**.

Thom'as, not *Tomas*, but the *h* is silent.

Thomp'son, Thom'son. Note that *h* and *p* are silent.

thor'ough. Note that the trigraph *ugh* is silent. See GH and UGH.

thought. Note that the trigraph *ugh* is silent. See GH and UGH.

thrall. Originally spelt with one *l* in Anglo-Saxon *thræl* which later alternated with two; the word did not permanently *retain* the two *l's* until the 17th century, and does not do so in the derivative **thral'dom** which dates from 1205.

thrash (1. To beat; whip. 2. To sail to windward), distinguish from **thresh** (to beat out grain).

thrash'er (a bird), distinguish from **thresh'er** (one who threshes).

thread. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

thread'bare", not *thredbear*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

threat, threat'en, threat'en-er. The *a* in these words is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

three (a number), distinguish from **tree** (a plant).

thresh (to beat out grain), distinguish from **fresh** (new; recent).

thresh'er. Distinguish from THRASHER.

threw (did THROW), distinguish from **through** (from one end to or beyond the other; by means of).

thrive *changes* the *i* to *o* in forming the preterit **throve**, and adds *n* in forming the past participle **thriv'en**, but *drops* the *e* before *-ing* in the present participle **thriv'ing.**

throat. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and A.

throb *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **throbbed, throb'bing.**

throe (great pain), distinguish from **throw** (to fling).

throne (a sovereign's chair of state), distinguish from **thrown** (flung).

through (from one end to or beyond the other; by means of), distinguish from **threw** (did throw). There is a tendency to spell the former, *thru*.

throw *changes* the *o* to *e* in forming the preterit **threw**, and adds *n* in forming the past participle **thrown**, and *-ing* in the present participle **throw'ing.**

throw (to fling), distinguish from **throe** (great pain).

thrown. Distinguish from THRONE.

thrum *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **thrummed, thrum'ming.**

thrust *retains* the same form in the past participle, not *thrusted,* but takes *-ing* in the present participle **thrust'ing.**

thumb. Note that the *b* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and B.

thy (possessive case of THEE), distinguish from **thigh** (the leg between the hip and the knee).

thyme (an aromatic garden plant), distinguish from **time** (a portion of duration).

tide (rise and fall of the sea), distinguish from **tied** (fastened).

tier (a row, as of seats in a theater; rank), distinguish from **tear** (water from the eye).

tight (fitting closely), distinguish from **tite** (promptly; quickly).

tile *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tiled, til'ing.**

tim'ber (lumber used for building), distinguish from **tim'bre** (the quality of a sound).

time (a definite portion of duration), distinguish from **thyme** (an aromatic garden plant).

tin *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **tinned, tin'ning.**

tinc'ture *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tinc'tured, tinc'tur-ing.**

tinge *drops* the *e* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tinged,** but *retains* it in the present participle **tinge'ing.**

tin'gle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tin'gled, tin'gling.**

tin'kle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tin'kled, tin'kling.**

tin'sel. The participles of this verb are spelt **tin'seled** or **tin'selled, tin'sel-ing** or **tin'sel-ling.**

ti'ny *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **ti'ni-er, ti'ni-est.**

tip *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **tipped, tip'ping,** and the noun **tip'per.**

tire (a band or hoop; also, a flexible tube), distinguish from **Tyr** (Norse God of War) and **Tyre** (an ancient Phenician city).

tire *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tired, tir'ing,** but *retains* it before a suffix beginning with a consonant, **tire'less.**

ti"sane'. The American spelling, derived from the French, of **pti'san** (from the Latin *ptisana*) for an infusion or a decoction of barley. Note that the *p* in the latter is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 4, and P.

Ti'tan (one of a fabled race of giants), distinguish from **Ti'tian** (a Venetian painter), and from **Tit'iens** or **Tit'jens** (a German diva).

ti'ter, ti'tre (the standard of strength of a chemical solution). Both forms are in use. Distinguish the former from **tit'ter** (a suppressed laugh).

ti'tle (to give a name or title to) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ti'tled, ti'tling.** Distinguish from **tit'tle** (a very small quantity).

ti'trate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ti'trat-ed, ti'trat-ing.**

tit'u-lar, not *tituler* or *titulor.*

tme'sis. A word in grammar denoting the presence of an intervening word in a compound as to *us* ward for "*toward* us." The *t* is sometimes sounded but often not.

to (toward), distinguish from **too** (excessive), and from **two** (a number). Note that these three words are pronounced *tu* (*u* as in "rule") in English speech.

toad. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and A and O.

toad'y. Note that the *a* is silent (see TOAD), and that the *y* changes to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **toad'ied,** but is retained in the present participle **toad'y-ing.**

toast. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and OA, p. 141.

toe (a part of the foot). Note that the *e* is silent and distinguish from **tow** (**I.** *v.* To draw along. **II.** *n.* Coarse flax).

toe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* in the past participle **toed,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **toe'ing.**

toi'let, not *toylet.* In French, **toi"lette'.**

told (mentioned), distinguish from **tolled** (rung).

tol'er-ant, not *tolerent.*

to-ma'to. Sometimes pronounced *to-mah'to,* but the spelling is the same. The American pronunciation *to-may'to* is formed on the analogy of **po-ta'to.**

tomb. Note that the *b* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and B.
Tomp'kins. The *p* in this name is frequently silent.
ton (measure of weight), distinguish from **tun** (a large cask).
tone *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **toned, ton'ing.**
tongue, not *tung* as it is pronounced.
ton'nage, not *tunnage* as it is pronounced.
ton"neau'. Note the last syllable—not *tonno.*
ton"sil-li'tis is preferred to **ton"sil-i'tis,** but both forms are in use.
ton-tine', not *tonteen* as it is pronounced.
too. Distinguish from TO and from TWO.
tool (an implement), distinguish from **tulle** (gauze-like dress-goods).
tooth, *changes* the *o*'s to *e*'s in the plural **teeth.**
top *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **topped, top'ping.**
tope (a shrine, dome, or tower), distinguish from **taupe** (a mole or the color of mole-skin).
tope *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **toped, top'ing,** and before *-er* in the noun **top'er.**
To-pe'ka, not *Topeeka.*
top"sy-tur'vy, not *topsey-turvey.*
toque, not *toke* as it is pronounced.
tor-men'tor is preferred to **tor-men'ter,** but both are in use.
tor-na'do adds *es* in forming the plural **tor-na'does.**
tor'por, not *torper.*
torque (an armlet or a necklace), not *tork.*
tor'rent, not *torrant.*
tor'toise, not *tortus.*
tor'ture *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tor'tured, tor'tur-ing.**
to'tal. The participles are spelt **to'taled** or **to'talled, to'tal-ing** or **to'tal-ling.**
touch. Note that the *o* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and O.
tough, not *tuf* as it is pronounced. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, O and UGH.
tout, not *taut.* See OU.
tow. Distinguish from TOE.

to'ward, to'wards. Note that the *w* is silent. See W.

tow'el. The participles of this verb are spelt **tow'eled** or **tow'elled, tow'el-ing** or **tow'el-ling.** The noun (crash for towels) is spelt **towel'ing** or **towel'ling.**

toy *retains* the *y* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **toyed, toy'ing.**

trace *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **traced, trac'ing,** but *retains* it before *-able* in the adjective **trace'a-ble.**

track (a path), distinguish from **tract** (a short treatise).

trac'tor, not *tracter.*

trade *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **trad'ed, trad'ing.**

traf'fic adds *k* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **traf'ficked, traf'fick-ing.**

trag'e-dy, not *tradgedy.*

trail, train, trait, trai'tor. In all these words the *i* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and I.

tra-jec'to-ry, not *trajectary* or *trajectery.*

tram'mel. The participles of this verb are spelt **tram'meled, or tram'melled; tram'mel-ing or tram'mel-ling.**

tran'quil *doubles* the *l* in **tran-quil'li-ty** and **tran-quil'ly.**

tran'quil-ize, tran'quil-lize, tran'quil-ise, tran'quil-lise. All these forms are used, but the first is preferred in the United States, and the third and fourth in Great Britain.

tran-scend', not *transend.*

tran-scribe' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tran-scribed', tran-scrib'ing.**

trans-fer' *doubles* the final *r* in forming the participles **trans-ferred', trans-fer'ring.**

trans-fer'a-ble, not *transferrable.*

trans-late' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **trans-lat'ed, trans-lat'ing.**

trans-mis'si-ble, not *transmissable.*

trans-mit' *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **trans-mit'ted, trans-mit'ting,** and in the noun **trans-mit'ter.**

trans-mit'ti-ble, not *transmittable.*

trans-mute' *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **trans-mut'ed, trans-mut'ing** and before *-able* in the adjective **trans-mut'a-ble.**

trans-par'ence, not *transpairence.*

trap *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **trapped, trap'ping.**

trav'ail (anguish; distress), distinguish from **trav'el** (to journey).

trav'el. The participles of this verb are spelt **trav'eled** or **trav'elled, trav'el-ing** or **trav'el-ling.** The single *l* form is preferred in the United States, the two *l* form prevails in Great Britain.

trav'e-ler, trav'el-ler. Both forms are used, but the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

trav'es-ty *changes* the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **trav'es-ties.** See PLURALS OF NOUNS.

tray (a flat shallow utensil), distinguish from **trey** (a card or die with three spots).

tread *changes* to **trod** in the preterit and to **trod'den** in the past participle, but takes *-ing* in forming the present participle **tread'ing.**

trea'sure, trea'sur-er. Note that the *a* in these words is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

treat'ise (written composition), distinguish from **trea'-ties** (plural of TREATY).

trea'ty *changes* the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **trea'ties.**

tree (a woody plant), distinguish from **three** (a number).

tree (*v.*) *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **treed, tree'ing.**

tre'foil, not *treefoil* as it is pronounced.

tre-pan' *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **tre-panned', tre-pan'ning.**

tres'tle, not *tressel* as it is pronounced. Note that the second *t* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and T.

trey. Distinguish from TRAY.

tri-chi'na. In this word *ch* has the sound of *k.* See CH.

tricks (antics; jokes), distinguish from **-trix** (a suffix denoting the feminine gender, as in *executor* (masculine), *executrix* (feminine).

tri'cy-cle, not *trycicle.*

tri-en'ni-al, not *triannual.*

trim *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **trimmed, trim'ming.** Also before *-er* in the noun **trim'mer.**

trip *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **tripped, trip'ping,** and before *-er* in the noun **trip'per.**

trip'le *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **trip'led, trip'ling,** and before *-ly* in the adverb **trip'ly.**

trip'li-cate, not *triplacate.*

trite, not *tright.* See BITE, BRIGHT, KITE, LIGHT, MITE, NIGHT, etc.

trol'ley, not *trolly.*

tro'phy. Note that *ph* has the sound of *f.* See PH. The *y* change to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **tro'phies.**

trot *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **trot'ted, trot'ting,** and before *-er* in the noun **trot'ter.**

troub'le *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **troub'led, troub'ling,** and before *-er* in the noun **troub'ler.**

trough, not *trof* as it is pronounced. See GH and UGH.

trou'sers, not *trowsers.*

trous"seau', not *trusso* as it is pronounced.

trudge *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **trudged, trudg'ing,** NOT *trudgeing.*

true *drops* the *e* before *-ly* in forming the adverb **tru'ly,** NOT *truely.*

true (*v.*) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **trued, tru'ing.**

tru'ism, not *trueism.*

trun'nion, not *tronion* or *trunyon.*

try *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tried,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **try'ing.**

tset'se (an injurious South African fly whose bite causes disease in cattle and horses). This word is spelt also **tzet'ze.**

tub *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **tubbed, tub'bing.**

tube *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tubed, tub'ing.**

tu-ber'cu-lar, not *tuberculer.*

tu'ber-ose (bearing tubers), distinguish from **tube'rose"** (a flowering plant) and from **tu'ber-ous** (bearing tubers).

tu'bu-lar, not *tubuler.*

Tuc-son', not *Tuson* as it is usually pronounced.

tug *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **tugged, tug'ging,** and before *-er* in the noun **tug'ger.**

tum'ble *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tum'bled, tum'bling.**

tu'me-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tu'me-fied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in **tu'me-fy"ing.**

tu-mid'i-ty *changes* the *y* to *ies* in forming the plural **tu-mid'i-ties.**

tu'mu-lus *changes* the *us* to *i* in forming the plural **tu'mu-li.**

tun *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **tunned, tun'ning.**

tu'mor, tu'mour. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

tun (a large cask), distinguish from **ton** (a measure of weight).

tune *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tuned, tun'ing** (NOT *tuneing*), and before *-able* in the adjective **tun'a-ble.**

tung'sten, not *tonguesten.* The word is from the Swedish *tung,* weighty, and *sten,* stone.

tun'nel. The participles of this verb are spelt **tun'neled** or **tun'nelled; tun'nel-ing** or **tun'nel-ling.** The noun is spelt **tun'el-er** or **tun'nel-ler.**

tur'bine, not *turbin.*

tur'bu-lent, not *turbulant.*

tu'tor, not *tuter.*

tur'key adds *s* in forming the plural **tur'keys,** NOT *turkies.*

tu"yère', not *twyere* or *twyeer.*

tweed, not *twead* or *twede.*

twine *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **twined, twin'ing.**

twinge *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **twinged, twing'ing,** NOT *twingeing.*

two. Distinguish from TO and TOO.

ty'phoid. Note that *ph* has the sound of *f.* See PH.

tyr'an-nise, tyr'an-nize. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States. Both verbs *drop* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tyr'an-nised** or **-nized, tyr'an-nis"-ing** or **-niz"ing.**

Tyre (an ancient Phenician city), distinguish from **tire** (I. *v.* To fatigue. II. *n.* The rim of a wheel, etc.).

tzet'ze. A variant of TSETSE.

U

u. In English spelling this letter is used normally to represent its own sound, as heard in *full, rule, but, burn.* These sounds, however, occur in many words which do not contain the letter itself, and are indicated by various combinations as (1) *ew* in *brew, crew, grew* etc.; (2) *oo* in *book, cook, hook,* etc.; (3) *oo* in *cool, food, loom,* etc.; (4) *o* before *m, me, n, ne, ng, th,* and *z,* as in *among, come, son, done, tongue, nothing, brother, dozen,* etc.; (5) *oe* as in *does,* etc.; (6) *ou* as in *double,* etc.; (7) *ou* as in *group,* etc.; (8) *u* as in *duration, avenue;* (9) *ui* in *bruise, cruise, fruit,* etc.

ue. A digraph that occurs in *catalogue, demagogue, dialogue, monologue, prologue,* etc., as spelt in England, but widely discarded in the United States under the influence of the late Dr. Isaac K. Funk, founder and editor-in-chief of the "New Standard Dictionary," whose work defines the words under the simpler spellings; *catalog, demagog, dialog, monolog, prolog,* etc.

ugh. A trigraph that occurs in many English words which (1) is retained in spelling but not heard in pronunciation as in **although** (altho); **though** (tho); **thorough** (thoro), etc.; or (2) is pronounced variously as in **cough** (cof); **trough** (trof); **bough** (bow); **slough** (slow or sluff); **chough** (chuff); **enough** (enuf), etc.

ug'ly *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **ug'li-er, ug'li-est,** and before *-ly* in the adverb **ug'li-ly.**

U'kraine, not *Ukrane.*

U-krain'i-an, not *Ukranean.*

um'ber (a chestnut-brown color), distinguish from **um'bra** (a region of shadow from which light is entirely cut off).

um-brel'la, not *umberella.*

um'laut, not *umlout.*

un-. A prefix having negative force common in English, and frequently used as an alternative of *in-* as *inadvisable, unadvisable,* both words meaning "*not* advisable." Its presence does not affect the spelling of the basic word with which it is combined.

un-couth, not *uncuth* as it is pronounced.

un'der-bred", not *underbread.*

un″der-neath′, not *underneeth.*

un″der-write′. See under WRITE.

un′du-late *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **un′du-lat″ed, un′du-lat″ing.**

un-e′qualed or **un-e′qualled.** Both forms are used; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. See EQUAL.

u′ni-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **u′ni-fied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **u′ni-fy″ing.**

u-nite′ *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **u-nit′ed, u-nit′ing.**

u″ni-ver′sal, not *universel* for **u′ni-verse** *drops* the final *e* before *-al.*

u″ni-ver′si-ty *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-es* in forming the plural **u″ni-ver′si-ties.**

un-sal′a-ble, not *unsaleable.*

un-til′, not *untill.*

up. This word is frequently used in combination with a root-word, giving it adverbial force as, *up-bear′* (to bear up). When so used it does not affect the spelling of the root-word which see in its place in the vocabulary.

up-braid′, not *upbrade.*

up′ward, up′wards. Both forms are in use.

u-ra′ni-um, not *uraneum.*

ur′ban (pertaining to a city), distinguish from **ur′bane** (polite; refined).

urn (a vase-like vessel for ashes, tea, coffee, etc.), distinguish from **earn** (to gain by labor).

-us is a noun suffix that in English means "that which" as in *exodus,* "that which goes out". The suffix is to be distinguished from **-ous,** an adjectival termination designating "having," as *odorous,* "having smell," etc. See -OUS, p. 11.

us′a-ble, use′a-ble. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

us′age, not *useage.*

us′ance, not *useance.*

use (to employ) and **use** (the act of using) are both spelt alike, but the second is pronounced as if spelt *uze.* Distinguish the first from **ewes** (female sheep) and from **Hughes** (a surname) in which the initial *h* is aspirated.

u′su-al, not *uzual.*

u-surp' not *uzurp.*

u'su-ry *changes* the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **u'su-ries.**

U'tah, not *Utaw.*

u-ten'sil, not *utensile.*

u'til-ise, u'til-ize *drop* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **u'til-ised** or **u'til-ized; u'til-is″ing** or **u'til-iz″ing.** Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States.

u'til-i-ty *changes* the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **u-til'i-ties.**

ut'ter-ance, not *utterence.*

u'vu-la, not *uvala.*

V

v. This letter indicates its own sound, as in *vat, have.* Most English *v's,* especially initial, are in words from the French or Latin. *V* has a single invariable sound, which is like that of *f,* but duller: as *fan, van; ferry, very,* etc. Nearly all the *v's* in modern English in words from Anglo-Saxon are from *f's* made sonant by coming between two sonants, as in *leaf, leaves; half, halves.*

va'cate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **va'cat-ed, va'cat-ing.**

vac'ci-nate, not *vacsinate.* This verb *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vac'ci-nat″ed, vac'ci-nat″ing.**

vac'ci-na″tor, not *vaccinater.*

vac'cine, not *vaccin.*

vac'il-late *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vac'il-lat″ed, vac'il-lat″ing.** Note that the words have but one *c* and two *l's.*

vac'u-um forms the plural by adding *s,* **vac'u-ums,** or by changing *um* to *a,* **vac'u-a.** Note that these words have but one *c.*

va-ga'ry, not *vaguery.* The *y* changes to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **va'ga-ries.** Compare VAGUE.

vague (indefinite; not clear), distinguish from **vaig** (**I.** *n.* A wanderer. **II.** *v.* To wander).

vail (submission; a giving place), distinguish from **vale** (a valley) and **veil** (a gossamer-like fabric to protect the face).

vain (conceited; showy; empty), distinguish from **vane** (a weathercock) and from **vein** (a blood-vessel).

val'ance (hanging drapery), distinguish from **va'lence** (the strength of a chemical element).

vale. Distinguish from VAIL and VEIL.

val"e-dic'to-ry, not *valadictary.*

Va-len"ciennes'. Note that the *s* is not pronounced.

val'en-tine, not *valantine.*

val'et. In the United States pronounced as printed, but in France and Great Britain the *t* is silent and the *e* is given the sound of *e* in "they."

val"e-tu"di-na'ri-an, not *valitudinarian.*

val"e-tu'di-na-ry, not *valetudinery.*

val'iant, not *valliant.*

val'id, not *vallid.*

va-lid'i-ty, not *vallidity.*

val'ley, not *vally.* The plural is formed by adding *s*, **val'leys,** not *vallies.*

val'or, val'our. Both forms are used; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

val"or-i-sa'tion, val"or-i-za'-tion. Both forms are used; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States.

Val"pa-rai'so, not *Valparizo.*

val'u-a-ble, not *valueable.*

val'ue *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **val'ued, val'u-ing,** NOT *valueing.*

van *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **vanned, van'ning.**

Van Dyck, not *Van Dyke* or *Vandyke.* In the adjective the two words are combined as one word, **Van-dyck'** (pertaining to Van Dyck or his work).

vane. Distinguish from VAIN and VEIN.

van'guard, not *vangard.*

va-nil'la, not *vanila.*

van'i-ty *changes* the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **van'i-ties.**

va'por, va'pour. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

va"por-i-za'tion, not *vaporisation.*

va'por-ize, not *vaporise or vapourize.*

va'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **var'ied,** and before *-able* in the adjective **va'ri-a-ble,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **va'ry-ing,**

va'ry (to change partially), distinguish from **ver'y** (real; actual).

vase. A word that is pronounced variously *vahze*, *vays*, *veyze*, and *vorze*, but its spelling is **vase.**

vas'sal (a dependant or retainer), not *vassil.* Distinguish from **ves'sel** (a receptacle; also a ship).

vaude'ville, not *veaudeville.*

veal. Note that the *a* is silent. See EA, p. 75.

veg'e-ta-ble, not *vegetible* or *vegtable.*

ve'he-ment. Sometimes the *h* in this word is not aspirated, but it should always be retained in the spelling.

ve'hi-cle. The *h* in this word is not commonly aspirated, but should always be retained in the spelling.

veil (a gossamer-like fabric), distinguish from **vail** (submission; act of giving place) and from **vale** (a valley).

vein (a blood-vessel), distinguish from **vain** (proud; profitless), and from **vane** (a weathercock).

ve-lours' (velvet), distinguish from **vel'ure** (any fabric that resembles velvet or velveteen, especially of linen, silk, or jute).

ve'nal (ready to sell; purchasable), distinguish from **ve'ni-al** (that may be pardoned or overlooked).

ven'der, not *vendor.*

ven-due', not *vendew.*

ve-neer', not *venear.*

ven'geance, not *vengence* or *vengiance.* Compare ALLEGIANCE.

ve'ni-al, not *veneal.*

ve-ni're, not *veniree.*

ven'i-son, not *venson.*

ven'ti-late, not *ventillate.* This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ven'ti-lat"ed, ven'ti-lat"ing.**

ven"ti-la'tion, not *ventillation.*

ven'ti-la"tor, not *ventilater.*

ven'ture *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ven'tured, ven'tur-ing.**

ven'ure, not *venew.*

ve-ra'cious (truthful), distinguish from **vo-ra'cious** (ravenous; gluttonous).

va-rac'i-ty, not *verasity.*

ve-ran'da or **ve-ran'dah,** not *varanda* which is the Hindustani form.

ver'dant, not *verdent.*

ver'di-gris, not *verdigrease.*
Ver"dun', not *Verdoon.*
ver'dure (green color), distinguish from **ver'ger** (a mace-bearer).
verg'ing (approaching toward), distinguish from **vir'gin** (a maiden).
ver'i-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **ver'i-fied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **ver'i-fy"ing.**
ver'meil (silver or bronze gilt), not *vermeille* or *vermil* as it is pronounced.
ver'mouth, ver'muth. Both forms are in use.
Ver-sailles', not *Versaille* or *Versales* as it is sometimes pronounced.
ver'sa-tile, not *versatil.*
versed (completely familiar with; proficient), distinguish from **verst** (a Russian measure of distance).
ver'ses (metrical composition in poetry), distinguish from **ver'sus** (against: a Latin law term).
ver'te-bra *changes* the *a* to *æ* in forming the plural **ver'te-bræ.**
ver'tex *changes* the *-tex* to *-tices* in forming the plural **ver'ti-ces,** or simply adds *-es,* **ver'tex-es.**
ver'ti-cal (perpendicular), distinguish from **ver'ti-cle,** obsolete spelling of **ver'ti-cil** (whorl).
ver'vain, not *vervein.*
ver'y (real, actual), distinguish from **va'ry** (to change partially).
Ves-puc'ci (**A"me-ri'go**), not *Vespucchi.*
vet'er-i-na-ry, not *veterinery.*
vi'a (a highway) *changes* the *a* to the diphthong *æ* in forming the plural **vi'æ,** but the word is usually used prepositionally, and means "by way of."
vial (a small bottle: spelt also **phi'al**), distinguish from **vile** (base; wicked) and from **viol** (a musical instrument).
vi'brate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vi'brat-ed, vi'brat-ing.**
vice (**I.** *n.* **1.** A deputy; substitute. **2.** Depravity), distinguish from **vies** (contends) and from **vise** (a clamping device.
vice"-reine', not *vicerine.*

The viceroy and *vicerine* left for the opening of the parliament at 10 o'clock.—*The Globe,* New York, June 7, 1921.

vi'ce ver'sa, not *visee versa.*

vi-cis'si-tude, not *visissitude.*

vic'tim-ize *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vic'ti-mized, vic'ti-miz″ing.**

vie *drops* the *e* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **vied,** and *changes* the *ie* to *y* before *-ing* in the present participle **vy'ing.**

vies. Distinguish from VICE and VISE.

vi-gnette' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vi-gnet'ted, vi-gnet'ting.**

vig'or, vig'our. Both forms are correct.

vile (base; wicked), distinguish from **vial** (a small bottle), **viol** (a musical instrument).

vil'i-fy, not *villify.* This verb *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **vil'i-fied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in **vil'i-fy″ing.**

vil'lain, not *vilain.*

vil'lous (covered with nap or short soft hairs), distinguish from **vil'lus** (close, short, soft hair).

vin″ai-grette', not *vinagrette* or *vinegarette.*

vin'di-cate *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vin'di-cat″ed, vin'di-cat″ing.**

vin'e-gar, not *vinniger.*

vi'o-late *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vi'o-lat″ed, vi'o-lat″ing.**

vi'o-la″tor, not *violater.*

vi'o-let, not *violette.*

vi-ra'go, not *viraygo.*

vir'gin (a maiden), distinguish from **verg'ing** (tending).

vir-tu' (rare, curious, beautiful quality, used in combination; as, "articles of *virtu*"), distinguish from **vir'tue** (moral excellence).

visable. Misspelling of VISIBLE.

vis″à-vis', not *viz-a-vee* as it is pronounced.

vis'count, vis'count-ess. Note that the *s* is silent in both of these words. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and S.

vi-sé', not *vizé* as it is pronounced. The participles of this verb are spelt **vi-séed', vi-sé'ing.**

vise. Distinguish from VICE and VIES.

vis'i-ble, not *visable.*

vis'u-al-ize *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vis'u-al-ized, vis'u-al-iz″ing.**

vi'tal-ize *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vi'tal-ized, vi'tal-iz″ing.**

vi'ta-mine", vi'tam-in. Both forms are in use, the pronunciation differing according to the spelling. Dr. Thomas Lathrop Stedman prefers **vi'ta-mine"**, Dr. Smith Ely Jeliffe, **vi'tam-in.**

vit'i-cul"ture, not *vitaculture.*

vit're-ous, not *vitrious.*

vit'ri-ol, not *vitrol,* a common mispronunciation.

vi-va'cious, not *vivaceous.*

vi'va vo'ce, not *viva vosee* as it is pronounced.

vo-cab'u-la-ry, not *vocabulery.*

vo'cal-ize *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vo'cal-ized, vo'cal-iz"ing.**

vogue (the prevalent fashion), distinguish from **vague** (indefinite; dreamy).

vol'ume, not *volyum.*

vol'un-ta-ry, not *voluntery.*

vo-lup'tu-a-ry, not *voluptuery.*

vom'it *does not* double the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vom'it-ed, vom'it-ing.**

vo-ra'cious (greedy; ravenous), distinguish from **ver-a'cious** (truthful).

vor'tex adds *es* in forming the plural **vor'tex-es,** or changes *-tex* to *-tices* in **vor'ti-ces.**

vo'ta-ry, not *votery.* The *y* changes to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **vo'ta-ries.**

vote *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vot'ed, vot'ing.**

vow'el. The participles of this verb are spelt **vow'el-ed** or **vow'el-led; vow'el-ing** or **vow'el-ling.**

voy'age *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **voy'aged, voy'ag-ing.**

voy"a"geur', not *voyazure.*

vul'can-ise, vul'can-ize. Both forms are used; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States, and both *drop* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vul'can-ised** or **vul'can-ized; vul'can-is"ing** or **vul'can-iz"ing.**

vul'ner-a-ry, not *vulnerery.* The noun *changes* the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **vul'ner-a-ries.**

vy'ing, not *vieing.*

W

w. This letter usually indicates its own sound. Initial *w* is always silent before *r*, as in *wrack, wraith, wrangle, wrap, wreak, wreck, write, wrote, wrung, wry*, etc.; it is silent also sometimes before *h*, as in *who, whoever, whole, whom, whoop*, etc. It is silent also in *awry, owe, sword, toward, two, answer*, etc.

In words from the German pronounced *v*, as *Wagner*, but in proper names the Anglicized form is frequently used.

wab'ble, wob'ble. Both forms are in use and *drop* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wab'bled** or **wob'bled; wab'bling** or **wob'bling.**

wab'bler, wob'bler. Both forms are in use.

wad *doubles* the *d* in forming the participles **wad'ded, wad'ding.**

wad'dle, not *woddle.* The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wad'dled, wad'dling.**

wade (walk in water), distinguish from **weighed** (past participle and past tense of WEIGH).

wag *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **wagged, wag'ging.**

wage *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **waged, wag'ing.**

wag'ing (engaging in conflict), distinguish from **wag'ging** (moving back and forth).

wag'on, wag'gon. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

wag″on-ette′, wag″gon-ette′. Both forms are in use.

wag'tail″, not *wagtale.*

waif. Note that the *i* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and I.

wail (to lament), distinguish from **whale** (a large marine mammal), and from **wale** (a ridge or stripe).

wain (a wagon), distinguish from **wane** (decrease).

wain'scot. The participles of this verb are spelt **wain'scot-ed** or **wain'scot-ted; wain'scot-ing** or **wain'scot-ting.**

waist (the central part of the body between the chest and the hips), distinguish from **waste** (**I.** *n.* Remainder. **II.** *v.* To squander).

wait (to stay for), distinguish from **weight** (**I.** *n.* Mass. **II.** *v.* To make heavier).

waive *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **waived, waiv'ing.**

waive (to relinquish; quit), distinguish from **wave** (a billow).

waiv'er (voluntary relinquishment of a right), distinguish from **wa'ver** (to sway; falter).

wake *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **waked** and **wak'ing.** This verb has **woke** as an alternative past participle.

wale *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **waled, wal'ing.** Distinguish from WAIL and WHALE.

wal'la-by, not *wollaby.*

wan'der (to ramble here and there), distinguish from **won'der** (to marvel at).

wane (decrease) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **waned, wan'ing.** Distinguish from **wain** (a wagon).

wap'i-ti, not *wopiti.*

war *doubles* the *r* in forming the participles **warred, war'ring.**

ware (merchandise), distinguish from **wear** (to waste from use), and from **were** (had been).

wasp, not *waps* or *wosp.*

waste *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wast'ed, wast'ing,** but *retains* it before *-ful* in the adjective **waste'ful.**

waste (squander), distinguish from **waist** (the central part of the body between the chest and the hips).

wave (**I.** *n.* A billow. **II.** *v.* To move to and fro through the air), distinguish from **waive** (**I.** *n.* A relinquishing. **II.** *v.* To relinquish).

wa'ver (to sway; falter), distinguish from **waiv'er** (a relinquishment of a right).

way (a pass; a road), distinguish from **whey** (watery part of milk), **weigh** (to balance), and from **wey** (forty bushels).

we (you and I), distinguish from **wee** (little).

weak (feeble). Note that the *a* is silent and distinguish from **week** (a period of seven days). See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA.

weald (an open region; a grove; also waste woodland). Note that the *a* is silent, and distinguish from **wield** (to handle). See EA.

wealth, not *welth* as it is pronounced, the *a* being silent.

wean (to withdraw from), distinguish from **ween** (a fancy). See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA.

weap'on, not *wepon* as it is pronounced, the *a* being silent.

wear (to waste from use). Note that the *a* is silent, and distinguish from **ware** (merchandise), and from **were** (had been). See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA.

wear. The participles of this verb are irregular, the preterit is **wore;** the past participle **worn;** the present participle **wear'ing.**

wea'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **wea'ried,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **wea'ry-ing.** The *y* is changed to *i* in forming the derivatives **wea'ri-ly, wea'ri-ness, wea'ri-some, wea'ri-some-ly, wea'ri-some-ness.**

wea'sel, not *weezel* as it is pronounced, the *a* being silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA. Compare WEEVIL.

weath'er (state of the atmosphere). Note that the *a* is silent, and distinguish from **weth'er** (a sheep). Compare WHETHER.

weave, not *weeve.* This verb *drops* the final *e* in forming the participles **weaved, weav'ing.** *Weave* has other irregular forms as the preterit, **wove** or **weaved,** and the past participle **wo'ven, wove,** or **weaved.**

web *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **webbed, web'bing.**

wed *doubles* the *d* in forming the participles **wed'ded, wed'ding.**

wedge *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wedged, wedg'ing.**

wedg'wood, not *wedgewood.*

Wednes'day, not *Wenzday* as it is pronounced. The word is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Wodnes* genitive singular of *Woden,* and *dæg,* day.

wee. Distinguish from WE.

week (seven days), distinguish from **weak** (feeble). Note that the *a* in the latter word is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

ween (a fancy), distinguish from **wean** (to withdraw from).

weep *changes* to **wept** in the past participle, but takes *-ing* in forming the present participle **weep'ing.**

wee'vil, not *weavil.* Compare WEASEL.

weigh (to find the mass of; also, ponder about), distinguish from **whey** (the watery straw-colored liquid obtained from curdled milk), **way** (a road or path), and from **wey** (a unit of weight).

weight (pressure; mass), distinguish from **wait** (remain in one place; stand in readiness).

weight'y *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **weight'i-er, weight'i-est.**

weird, not *weared* or *wierd.* See EI and IE, p. 7.

wel'come, not *wellcome.*

wel'fare, not *wellfare.*

were (had been), distinguish from **whir** (a wizzing sound).

West'min-ster, not *Westminister.*

wet (to moisten with liquid), distinguish from **whet** (to sharpen). Both verbs *double* the *t* in forming the participles **wet'ted** or **wet, wet'ting; whet'ted, whet'ting.**

weth'er (a sheep), distinguish from **weath'er** (the state of the atmosphere).

wey (a unit of weight), distinguish from **way** (a road or path), and from **weigh** (to test the mass of).

wh. This digraph occurs in a number of English words and is sometimes pronounced as if inverted, as **whack,** pronounced as if spelt *hwack,* **whale**—as if spelt *hwale.*

Occurring before *h* the letter *w* is sometimes pronounced as if it were after it as *hoo-y, why, hoo-en, when,* etc.; but in *whole, whoop,* etc., the single and double *o* coalescing with the same sound in *w,* the letter *w* is scarcely perceptible.

In many words *wh* is pronounced as *hw* in the United States, in northern England, in Ireland, in Scotland, and in Wales, as well as in some of the British dominions, but in southern England, especially in London, the *h* is silent, no distinction being made between *what* and *watt, wen, where* and *wear, while* and *wile, whoa* and *wo,* etc.

whack, not *wack.*

whale (a large marine mammal), distinguish from **wale** (a ridge or stripe as from a blow), or from **wail** (to lament).

wharf *changes* the *f* to *v* and *es* is added to form the plural **wharves.**

what, not *whot.* See WH.

wheal (a wale, raised mark, or welt), distinguish from **wheel** (a rotating disk).

wheat. Note that the *a* is silent and that the letters *wh* are transposed in pronunciation, but not in spelling. See WH.

whee'dle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **whee'dled, whee'dling.**

wheel. Distinguish from WHEAL.

where (at what place?), distinguish from **wear** (to attire oneself in, as a garment).

whet (to sharpen), distinguish from **wet** (to moisten with liquid). See under WET.

wheth'er (in case; if), distinguish from **weath'er** (the state of the atmosphere).

whey (the straw-colored watery liquid obtained from curdled milk), distinguish from **weigh** (to find the mass of; also, ponder about), or from **way** (a road or path), and from **wey** (a unit of weight).

which (what person or thing), distinguish from **witch** (a sorceress).

while (to spend lightly and pleasantly, as time), distinguish from **wile** (to mislead or beguile). Both verbs *drop* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **whiled, whil'ing; wiled, wil'ing.**

whine (to make a plaintive cry, as a child or an animal), distinguish from **wine** (**I.** *n.* The juice of the grape fermented or unfermented. **II.** *v.* To supply wine to). Both verbs *drop* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **whined, whin'ing; wined, win'ing.**

whin'ny *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in the past participle **whin'nied,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **whin'ny-ing.**

whip *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **whipped, whip'ping,** and the noun **whip'per.**

whir *doubles* the *r* in forming the participles **whirred, whir'ring.** This verb is sometimes spelt **whirr.**

whisk-broom, wisp-broom. Both forms are in use, but not *whisp-broom* which is an erroneous form of the latter.

whis'ky, whis'key. Both forms are in use, but the first *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural, but in the second form only *s* is added.

whith'er (to what place), distinguish from **with'er** (to fade).
whit'tle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **whit'tled, whit'tling.**
whiz *doubles* the *z* in forming the participles **whizzed, whiz'zing.**
whole (entire; complete), distinguish from **hole** (an opening).
whole *drops* the *e* before *-ly*, **whol'ly**, NOT *wholely.*
whol'ly (completely; entirely), distinguish from **ho'ly** (sacred).
whoop (a hoot; a loud noise), distinguish from **hoop** (a circular band).
wich'ha″zel, witch'-ha″zel. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.
wield (to handle), distinguish from **weald** (an open region; a groove; also, waste woodland).
wierd. Misspelling of **weird.**
wife *changes* the *fe* to *ves* in forming the plural **wives.**
wile. Distinguish from WHILE.
wil'ful, not *willful* or *willfull.*
win *changes* the *i* to *o* in forming the past participle **won,** and *doubles* the *n* before *-ing* in the present participle **win'ning.**
wind'y *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **wind'i-er, wind'i-est.**
wine. Distinguish from WHINE.
Win'ni-peg, not *Winipeg.*
wipe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wiped, wip'ing,** NOT *wipeing.*
wir'i-ly, not *wirely.*
wis'dom. The *s* in this word is pronounced like *z.* See S.
wise *drops* the *e* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **wis'er, wis'est,** and before *-dom* in the noun **wis'dom.**
with-al', not *withall.*
with'er (to fade), distinguish from **whith'er** (to what place).
with-hold', not *withold.*
wit'ty *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **wit'ti-er, wit'ti-est.**
wives. Plural of WIFE.
wiz'ard, not *wizzard.*

wo, woe. Both forms are in use.
woe'ful, wo'ful. Both forms are in use.
wolf *changes* the *f* to *ves* in forming the plural **wolves.** Distinguish from **Wolfe** (English general; killed at Quebec).
wol"ver-ene', wol"ver-ine'. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.
wo'man *changes* the *a* to *e* to form the plural **wo'men.**
womb. Note that the *b* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and B.
won (gained), distinguish from **one** (a single thing).
wood (lumber), distinguish from **would** (desired), in which the *o* and *l* are silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2 and 3.
wool'en, wool'len. Both forms are in use.
work has two past participles **worked** or **wrought.** See O.
world, not *wurld.*
worm, not *wurm.*
wor'ry *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **wor'ried,** but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **wor'ry-ing.**
wor'ship. The participles of this verb are spelt **wor'shiped** or **wor'shipped, wor'ship-ing** or **wor'ship-ping.** The noun is spelt **wor'ship-er** or **wor'ship-per.**
worst, not *wurst.* See O.
wors'ted, not *woosted.* See O.
wort, not *wurt.* See O.
worth, not *wurth.* See O.
would. Distinguish from WOOD.
wound (an injury or a hurt, as a cut), not *wund* as it is pronounced (*u* as in "rule"). Distinguish from **wound** (did wind) pronounced to rime with *round.*
wr. A digraph in which the *w* is silent. It occurs in many English words.
wrack (destruction), distinguish from **rack** (to torture). Note that the *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.
wran'gle (**I.** *n.* A dispute. **II.** *v.* To dispute angrily), distinguish from **Wran'gel** (**1.** Russian general. **2.** A mountain in Alaska). Note that the *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.
wrap (an outer garment; to infold), distinguish from **rap** (to strike). Note that the *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.

wrap *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **wrapped, wrap'ping,** and in the noun **wrap'per.** The *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.

wrath Note that the *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.

wrath'ful, not *wrathfull.*

wreak (to exercise vengence), distinguish from **reek** (steam; vapor).

wreath (a circular band of leaves or flowers), distinguish from **wreathe** (to make into a wreath) which *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in **wreathed, wreath'ing.** See EA, p. 75.

wreck (to ruin; destroy), distinguish from **reck** (to heed; to care).

wren, wrench. Note that the *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.

wrest (to twist; wrench), distinguish from **rest** (peace; quiet).

wrest'le *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wrest'led, wrest'ling.** In these words and the noun **wrest'ler,** the *w* is silent.

wretch (a despicable person), distinguish from **retch** (to try to vomit). See W.

wretch'ed, not *retched.* The *w* is silent. See W.

wright (a mechanic), distinguish from **write** (to inscribe with a pen or pencil), or **right** (correct; true) and from **rite** (a ceremony).

wring (to twist), distinguish from **ring** (**I.** *v.* To sound. **II.** *n.* A circle).

wring'er (a machine that squeezes water out of a fabric), distinguish from **ring'er** (one who rings a bell or the like). See W.

wrin'kle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wrin'kled, wrin'kling.** See W.

wrist, not *rist.* The *w* is silent. See W.

write (to inscribe), distinguish from **right** (correct; true), or **rite** (a ceremony), and from **wright** (a mechanic). See W.

write *changes* the *i* to *o* in forming the preterit **wrote,** *drops* the *e* and adds *-ten* to form the past participle **writ'ten** and *drops* the *e* before *-ing* in the present participle **writ'ing,** NOT *writeing.* See W.

writhe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **writhed, writh'ing.**

wrong, not *rong.* Note that the *w* is silent. See W.
wrote (did write), distinguish from **rote** (mechanical repetition).
wrung (twisted), distinguish from **rung** (I. *a.* Sounded. II. *n.* One of the cross-rods of a ladder).
wry (out of shape), distinguish from **rye** (grain).
wry'ness, not *wriness* or *ryness.* The *w* is silent. See W.

X

x. The letter **x** before accented *a, e, i* and *y* is pronounced as *z;* before unaccented *i,* as in *anxious, noxious,* it is pronounced as *ksh* and before *u,* as in *flexure.* When final it is sometimes heard as in *box* (boks) and sometimes silent, as in *billet-doux* (bi"lay-do'). See RULES FOR SPELLING, pp. 11-12.
xan'thin, xan'thine. Both forms are in use. See **X** and Z.
Xan-tip'pe, not *Zantippe.* See X and Z.
Xav'i-er, not *Zavier.* See X and Z.
Xe'ni-a, not *Zeenia.* See X and Z.
Xen'o-phon, not *Zenofon.* See X and Z.
xe-roph'a-gy, not *zeerofagy.* See X and Z.
xy'lo-graph, not *zylograph.* See X and Z.
xy'lo-phone, not *zylophone.* See X and Z.

Y

y. The letter *y* is used as a consonant to indicate the sound heard in *yet,* and elsewhere as a vowel exactly like *i.* Some persons inject a *y* sound in certain words as *card, guard*—an absurdity, condemned as a "monster of pronunciation" as long ago as 1784. See RULES FOR SPELLING, pp. 11-12.
yacht, not *yat* or *yot.* See CH.
yacht'ing, not *yating* or *yotting.*
Yah-veh', Yah-we', Yah-weh'. All forms are in use, but the first is preferred.
Yan'kee, not *Yankey.*
Yates (English family name of a distinguished editor and litterateur), distinguish from **Yeats** (Irish family name of a noted artist and a poet).
year (a period of twelve months), distinguish from **ear** (an organ of hearing).

yeast (barm), not *yeest*. Distinguish from **east** (where the sun rises).

yeo'man, not *yoman*. The *e* is silent. See E.

yew (an evergreen tree), distinguish from **ewe** (a female sheep), and from **you** (the personal pronoun of the second person plural construed frequently as a singular).

yield, not *yeeled* or *yeild*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and E and I.

yoak. Misspelling of YOLK.

yoke (a bond), distinguish from **yolk** (the yellow of an egg).

yoke *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **yoked, yok'ing.**

you. Distinguish from EWE, YEW.

young, not *yung*.

your (belonging to you), distinguish from **ewer** (a water jug).

youse. Misspelling of YOU: a vulgarism that can not be too severely condemned.

> There is "youse," for instance. On the broad avenues and boulevards of refined speech this enemy to better speech is never encountered. But in the byways and back alleys of speech intercourse it stalks about defiantly. Some persons who take pride in defending the under dog even in the realm of words tell us that "youse" is the pluralized form of "you," and so they incline to look with sympathy on this vagrant.—*The Detroit News*, July 15, 1921.

youth, not *yuth*—the *o* is silent.

youths, not *yuthz*—the *o* is silent.

Y'pres. Note that the *y* in this name is sounded as *ee* and that the *s* is silent.

Yp"si-lan'ti, not *Ypsilante*.

Y"ser', not *Yzare* as it is pronounced.

yt-ter'bi-um, not *iterbium* as it is pronounced. The word is derived from *Ytterby*, a town in Sweden.

yt'tri-um, not *itrium* as it is pronounced.

Yu"ca-tan', not *Youcatan*.

yuc'ca, not *yukka*.

Z

z. The letter *z* is the sign of a hissing or buzzing consonant, beginning a syllable, as in *zealous*, or closing a syllable, as in *buzz*. It indicates its own sound and that of *s* sounding as *z*, as in *zone*, *rose*, and a voiced sh as in *azure*. Compare S. Many words beginning with *x* are pronounced as if the initial letter were *z*. See X.

Zam-be'zi, Zam-be'si. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

zeal, not *zeel*. The *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

ze'bra, not *zeebra*.

ze'brass, not *zeebrass*.

ze'bu, not *zeebu*.

zemst'vo (a Russian provincial asembly), NOT *zemsvo*.

ze'nith, not *zeenith*.

zeph'yr, not *zefyr*.

ze'ro, not *zeero*.

zig'zag" *doubles* the *g* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **zig'zagged", zig'zag"ging.**

ziz'zle (to make a spluttering sound as meat when broiled), distinguish from **siz'zle** (the effervescence of brisk beer, champagne, etc., through a cork).

zo-ol'o-gy, not *zoo-ology*.

Zo"ro-as'ter, not *Zoroastor*.

Zo"ro-as'tri-an, not *Zoroasterian*.

zou-ave', not *zuave*.

Zui'der Zee, Zuy'der Zee. Both forms are in use.

Zu'rich. The *ch* is pronounced as *k*.

zyx'om-ma, not *zyxoma*.

zyxt (seest: a 13th century variant in Kentish dialect), distinguish from **sixth** (one of six equal parts).

Zyz'yn (a Polish town), not *Zyzin*.

zyz'zle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **zyz'zled, zyz'zling.** Compare SIZZLE, ZIZZLE.

A Desk Book of

ERRORS IN ENGLISH

by

FRANK H. VIZETELLY

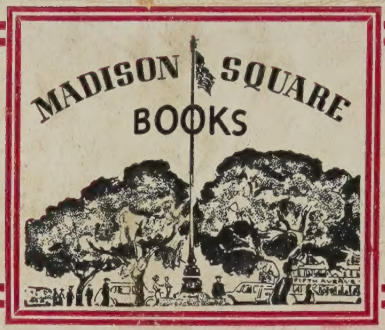
Author of "A Desk Book of 25,000 Words Frequently Mispronounced" and "Words We Misspell", etc.

The secret of strength in speech and writing lies in the art of using the right word in the right place. Therefore, careful speakers and writers should aim to command not only a large vocabulary, but a wide and correct knowledge of the meanings of words.

The purpose of this book is to correct careless diction and to point out common errors and vulgarisms that have crept into our language, so that any one desiring to acquire refined speech may learn from its pages what to avoid. English is a flexible language wherein usage has supplanted most of the grammatical rules. What are these accepted laws of usage? This valuable book by the outstanding lexicographer of our time will help you, through their application, to bring refinement to your accustomed style of diction and writing, and will teach him who does not know, what to say and how to say it—in a manner that will merit the respect of all cultured people.

He who makes it a practice each day to master one of these common errors in English will soon acquire that sense of self-confidence and power which is the secret of success.

GROSSET & DUNLAP *Publishers* **New York**



For GOOD READING we recommend *Madison Square Books*. Books for every taste and mood—outstanding novels, delightful romances, thrilling mysteries, two-gun Westerns.

Faith Baldwin
District Nurse

Earl Derr Biggers
Charlie Chan Carries On

Max Brand
The Secret of Dr. Kildare

Louis Bromfield
Early Autumn

Charlotte Bronte
Wuthering Heights

Katharine Brush
Red-Headed Woman

Pearl Buck
The Good Earth

Agatha Christie
Cards on the Table

Erle Stanley Gardner
The Case of the Curious Bride

Jackson Gregory
Riders Across the Border

Zane Grey
The Last of the Plainsmen

Ernest Hemingway
A Farewell to Arms

Grace Livingston Hill
Cloudy Jewel

James Hilton
And Now Good-Bye

Alice Tisdale Hobart
Oil for the Lamps of China

Fannie Hurst
Back Street

Peter B. Kyne
The Valley of the Giants

Lida Larrimore
The Silver Flute

Emilie Loring
The Solitary Horseman

Percy Marks
A Tree Grown Straight

Van Wyck Mason
The Budapest Parade Murders

John O'Hara
Butterfield 8

Christine W. Parmenter
Swift Waters

Eleanor Porter
Just David

Gene Stratton-Porter
At the Foot of the Rainbow

Ellery Queen
The Perfect Crime

William MacLeod Raine
Bucky O'Connor

Felix Salten
Bambi

Ethel Vance
Escape

Hendrik Willem Van Loon
Invasion

Publishers GROSSET & DUNLAP New York